Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-92-169 *31 August 1992*

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Brazil

In an address to the nation carried by Rio de Janeiro TV, President Fernando Collor said that "in no place in the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] report is it asserted" that financial operations which paid election campaign expenses "were illegal... or disrespectful of any regulatory norm." The public has received "false, slanderous, and totally inconsistent versions" of the report aimed at "placing the conduct of the president in doubt." The investigation "has only been possible," Collor stated, because of a "series of measures, all of them profoundly moralizing," adopted at the beginning of his term. "Without these measures-...the CPI would not have been able to conduct the investigation or have reached the conclusions it did." "I have made mistakes," he said, but they were never "inspired by malice or ill intentions," and added "those who think they will abrogate the mandate of the president of the Republic are wrong." "We will win through votes" and the Brazilian people will "decide...according to their consciences."

Cuba

Havana TV reports on a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Relations on 29 August in which the government "condemns," as a "clear violation of the territorial integrity of a state," the "imposition of an exclusion zone" in southern Iraq's airspace. This is seen as "one more example of the U.S. Government's ... attempts to impose a new unipolar order in which it imposes its hegemonic will." The statement says, the U.S. "intends to undermine basic and universally accepted principles of international relations" and "has become in itself a threat to peace and international security."

Peru

Lima TV reports the OAS "ratified its trust" in the government when it decided to send observers to oversee the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] elections to be held this fall. Because of Peru's "efforts to promote a return to democratic institutionality" the plenum "unanimously voted in favor" of Uruguayan Foreign Minister Gros Espiell's mission to the country and voted to "grant the OAS secretary general full authority to send aid and observers to Peru."

According to Lima Radio, President Fujimori described the results as "positive for the country." There is already "an understanding of how Peru is handling this entire electoral process" at the international level, he said, and this process "will not be stopped." Fujimori said he had not recieved any information regarding the date of Secretary General Soares and Espiell's visit but claimed "Peru's doors are open to any observer from any international organization."

'Text' of Free Trade Framework Agreement

PA2308162792 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
21 Aug 92 pp 1, 4, 16

["Text" of the Multilateral Framework Agreement for the Free Trade Agreement among the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua, signed in Managua on 20 August]

[Text] The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua,

Whereas:

The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua have the political will to sign agreements that will promote trade and cooperation among the signatory countries;

There is a desire to strengthen the Central American integration process, as agreed upon and stated in the Tuxtla Gutierrez Act, by reaching agreements with the broadest possible scope;

There is a need to better balance commercial relations among the signatory countries, taking into account their relative degrees of economic development;

There is an opportunity to enhance joint cooperation, due in part to the current geopolitical reality and the strong ties of regional identity that are derived therefrom;

There is a need to expedite and strengthen the revitalization of Latin American integration as a means to improve competitiveness in international markets;

It is convenient to find mutually beneficial agreements that will broaden and facilitate the development of commercial and investment channels;

Adequate cooperation in the fields of goods and service production is of utmost importance to the economic development of each country;

The principles of the GATT have been set forth;

CHAPTER I

Objectives of the Agreement

Article 1. The objectives of this agreement are as follows:

a. To strengthen economic and commercial relations among the signatory countries, in accordance with the text of the Tuxtla Gutierrez Act, by gradually establishing a free trade zone to be complete by 31 December 1996, at the latest.

b. To increase and diversify trade reciprocity among the signatory countries to the highest possible degree and improve access channels to international markets for their products.

c. To promote measures to increase and sustain export supply levels of the Central American signatory countries by making better use of current and potential comparative advantages.

d. To coordinate and complement economic activities, particularly in the fields of goods and services production;

e. To encourage those investments directed at promoting the market and competitive ability of the signatory countries in the flow of world trade.

f. To promote the creation and operation of regional bilateral and multilateral enterprises.

CHAPTER II

Scope

Article 2. This agreement hereby sets forth the reference framework that will govern bilateral negotiations between the United States of Mexico and the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, signatory countries of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration.

CHAPTER III

Unfair Trade Practices

Article 3. The signatory countries condemn dumping and all unfair trade practices. They acknowledge the need to eliminate subsidies to export products and to do away with domestic policies that produce undesirable trade distortions.

Because of this, the signatory countries commit themselves to eliminating all subsidies that benefit export products and any other kind of aid that would produce similar results.

If dumping or any other unfair trade practice emerges, the injured country will implement, in accordance with GATT dispositions, domestic laws dealing with this action.

CHAPTER IV

Safeguard Clauses

Article 4. Whenever the amount of products being imported in the framework of this agreement or the conditions under which a product is imported seriously harm the domestic production of similar items, the signatory countries may apply a safeguard system to those imports resulting from this agreement. This system will allow the implementation of customs. This implementation will be based on clear and strict concepts. The system will be nondiscriminatory and will remain in effect for a temporary period to be established.

The safeguard system will have a maximum duration of one year. It can be extended consecutively for a periods of equal duration. Extension requests require joint consideration by the signatory countries.

CHAPTER V

Technical Standards

Article 5. The signatory countries will analyze the industrial, commercial, agricultural and livestock, security, and public health technical standards that exist in each of the countries and commit themselves to adopt the necessary measures to keep such norms from becoming obstacles to trade. The countries, through the appropriate offices, will analyze and study such technical standards.

CHAPTER VI

The Treatment of Domestic Taxes

Article 6. The signatory countries agree that the treatment they will give their mutual imports in matters of tariffs, taxes, and other domestic fees, will not be less favorable than the treatment given to similar national products.

CHAPTER VII

The Solution of Controversies

Article 7. The procedure for resolving controversies between the countries that are signatories of the agreement must include the following phases: a. direct consultation; b. mediation; and c. arbitration. These phases will take place at both the bilateral and regional levels in the framework of the appropriate regulations.

CHAPTER VIII

Administration of the Agreement

Article 8. To improve the functioning of the current agreement, the signatory countries have agreed to form an Administrative Commission.

The commission will have the following attributes:

a. It will ensure the fulfillment of the agreement's stipulations.

b. It will conduct a follow-up on price practices and policies in specific sectors to detect cases that could cause significant trade distortions among the countries.

c. It will conduct a follow-up on the mechanisms to promote exports applied in the signatory countries in order to detect future distortions in competition resulting from their implementation and to promote harmony among these mechanisms.

d. It will review the different systems sheltered by the agreement and recommend to the governments of the signatory countries the respective modifications.

e. When advisable, it will propose to the governments of the signatory countries the recommendations it may deem advantageous for resolving the conflicts that may emerge over the interpretation and application of the agreement.

f. It will ensure the fulfillment of the procedural regulations in settling controversies.

g. It will ensure the application of the principles stated in the system of safeguard clauses.

h. It will present to the sides a regular report on the functioning of the current agreement, accompanied by those recommendations it may deem advantageous for the agreement's improvement and its exploitation to the fullest.

i. Any other attribute assigned by the signatory countries.

CHAPTER IX

Other Arrangements

Article 9. The signatory countries will sponsor a coordinated effort at international economic forums with regard to the industrialized countries to increase the access of their products to the large international markets.

Article 10. The signatory countries pledge to keep each other informed about their foreign trade systems and statistics. Any foreign trade system modifications must be reported within the 30 days following their announcement.

CHAPTER X

On Trade Facilities

Article 11. To identify trade obstacles between the signatory countries, the Administrative Commission will study the arrangements referent to or which may affect the transportation of merchandise, customs services schedules, and the functioning of the consolidated service systems [sistemas de ventanilla unica], among others.

Article 12. For the full development of the Free Trade Program, it is essential to continue the implementation of the pledges adopted in the Tuxtla Gutierrez Act that refer to the six other work programs that lay the foundation for complementary economic policies among the sides; the programs are the following:

a. Financial cooperation.
b. Development of Central America's exportable resources.
c. Promotion of investments.
d. Cooperation in the primary sector.
e. Power supply.
f. Technical training and cooperation.

Cuba

Minrex Condemns U.S. Exclusion Zone in Iraq

FL3108014792 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Relations in Havana on 29 August]

[Text] On 26 August, the Government of the United States announced the imposition of an exclusion zone south of 32d parallel in Iraqi airspace. This region is an integral part of Iraq and, therefore, Iraq exercises its sovereignty and jurisdiction over it.

In an attempt to legitimatize his actions, President Bush said that he was acting in agreement with the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 688 of 1991. It would be appropriate to remember that the mentioned resolution was adopted with three votes against by three of its members, one of which was Cuba, and two abstentions.

This decision, made by the current Yankee administration just a few months away from U.S. elections in November and just when the polls show that the current occupant of the White House remains behind his democrat rival, is one more example of the U.S. Government's attitude, which attempts to impose a new unipolar order in which it imposes its hegemonic will.

This decision is about another action of force, aggression, and interference, through which Washington, maintaining the thesis of a so-called limited sovereignty, intends to undermine basic and universally accepted principles of international relations such as the inviolability of territorial integrity and the equal sovereignty of states.

Undoubtedly, this exclusion zone, declared and put into effect by the United States, serves as a favorable stage for the exercise of its self-proclaimed (?vocation of international defender). Far from contributing to solving the serious problems of the area, the United States has become in itself a threat to peace and international security. Any attempt to violate the principle of international rights is a threat to peace and international security.

The Cuban Government condemns this new intervention by the United States, which constitutes a clear violation of the territorial integrity of a state through the unjustified use of military force.

Signed: Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex] of Cuba on 29 August 1992.

Official on Trade With Russia, U.S. Relations

LD2908073292 Hamburg DPA in German 1732 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Havana (DPA)—Trade relations between Cuba and the republics of the former Soviet Union, including Russia, are currently at a "nadir," Cuban First Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Ramirez confirmed in an interview with DPA today.

Nevertheless, Ramirez thought that for both sides the worst moment in Russo-Cuban relations was behind them. The current tendency indicated an improvement. He also refuted Russian press reports that Cuban Ambassador to Moscow Jose Ramon Balaguer had been recalled to Havana early because of the deterioration in bilateral relations. Balaguer's diplomatic mission was simply over, Ramirez said.

In view of the reduction in trade relations, the deputy foreign minister put the losses of deliveries of oil and other products, which were vital to the Cuban economy, down to the fact that the relevant treaties had expired and not been replaced by new ones. [passage omitted]

With regard to relations with the United States, Ramirez was of the opinion that Washington did not currently have a single reason to maintain its "hostile" policies toward Cuba. Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, the United States can no longer accuse Cuba of playing the role as agent for Soviet Communism, he said. Apart from this, there should be no ideological issues involved for the United States, as Washington had "normal relations" with other socialist states.

Ministry on U.S. Denial of Visa to Cosmonaut

FL2808192592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a declaration that explains the U.S. refusal to grant a visa to Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, the first Latin American cosmonaut, who was to attend two congresses in that country. Josi Jimenez will now read the text of the statement:

The U.S. State Department has again demonstrated its total contempt for international norms—that should guarantee the free development of scientific and cultural exchanges among nations—by its recent refusal to grant a visa to Colonel Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, the first Latin American cosmonaut. The Cuban cosmonaut had been invited to the Eighth Congress of Space Flight Participants and the Global Congress of the Cosmos, which will be held consecutively in Washington.

In its zeal to prevent Cuba from exhibiting technical and scientific prestige at international forums, U.S. authorities do not hesitate to act contrary to the most basic rules of international conduct, undermining their own authority as a proper host of events of such importance. This new act of anti-Cuban hostility and stubbornness by the U.S. Government, far from silencing Cuba's indisputable scientific research accomplishments, including space, places the host of the two events in the ridiculous position of having to explain to participants why the first Latin American who earned the title and global recognition of pilot-cosmonaut-researcher, is not present.

The arbitrary, forced absence of our representative will deny participants in the two events the opportunity to again speak with their colleague, hero of the Republic of Cuba, whose modesty, frankness, and dignity sharply contrast with the arrogance and stubbornness of those who show so little respect for free exchange in any field of human knowledge.

Signed: Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations.

Nonaligned Countries Condemn U.S. Aggression

FL2908182092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] The U.S. Government's hostility to Cuba over three decades appears among the more significant aspects assembled in the draft of the final document of the 10th Summit of Government and Heads of State of Non-Aligned Countries being held in Jakarta. The following is the voice of Pedro Acia Suarez giving us the most recent information from Indonesia.

[Acia Suarez] According to diplomatic sources, the point dealing with Cuba in the political part of the document presented by the host of the [word indistinct] appropriately summarizes the tensions to which Cuba has been subjected by the White House Administration.

A Latin American delegate told PRENSA LATINA that it deals with an obligatory and necessary mission, greater at this current time during which Cuba is experiencing a sharp economic crisis due to pressures and aggressive acts from Washington. According to sources, the paragraph concerning the Cuban issue urges the U.S. Government to stop actions which are contrary to good relations with Cuba and to stop using coercive economic, trade, and financial measures against Havana.

Representatives from Asian countries also commented on the importance of the document's implicit condemnation of the violation of territorial waters, Cuban air space, and the transmission of hostile radio and television programs contrary to international laws. Other observers considered the inclusion of the demand to return the Guantanamo Naval Base, which is currently occupied by [word indistinct], to Cuban sovereignty equally relevant.

Electricity Overconsumption Increases 5 Percent

FL2808153192 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Electricity consumption was five percent greater than the plan for the first half of August. State and residential consumers from 11 provinces could not comply with assigned quotas. GRANMA newspaper explained that only Havana, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila Provinces and the special municipality Isle of Youth were able to adjust their plans.

The residential consumers who met planned monthly quotas during the first half of the year presented overconsumption figures for July and August. The reasons have already been given: high temperatures, and school and worker vacations. In June, 63 percent of residential areas met their plan; 29 percent, which were in violation of assigned quotas, adopted measures to meet the plan; while the other eight percent did not conserve electricity.

Official on Completion of Electronuclear Plant

PA2908041392 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Report by Marianela Samper]

[Text] Daniel Codorniu, director of the Center for Applied Studies on Nuclear Energy, said during a news conference in Havana: Nuclear energy plays a fundamental role in Cuba's development, therefore, we cannot abandon this project. He went on to say that the construction of the Juragua electronuclear plant in the island's center-south area is at a crossroad. The contract for this plant had been signed with the old Soviet Union. Because this country no longer exists, the Cuban Government has discussed with Russia several aspects related to supplies and technical assistance. The rate of progress in the work slowed, however, because certain details could not be worked out.

[Begin Codorniu recording] The government is doing everything possible to expedite these negotiations so the plant can begin operations considering that its (?construction) is in an advanced stage. This does not mean we have doubts about the honesty of the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs. [sentence indistinct] The country in general regards the generation of electricity using nuclear energy as a strategic alternative we cannot abandon. [end recording]

The official added that Cuba has accumulated its own experience and has already created an infrastructure. In addition, talks have been going at various levels with Russia and other countries, which are probable suppliers, to complete the Juragua plant. He pointed out that alternate sources of energy can contribute to a certain extent to solve the country's energy problems but that they will never be able to help in the development plans.

[Begin Codorniu recording] Regardless of the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and its probable complications, research and the training of personnel in the field of energy and the nuclear program will not only continue but will be reinforced. At present, Cuba is in the process of strengthening its position in this field, although the situation has considerably slowed down the rate of progress in the work. We are consolidating the training and other steps related to this energy program. [end recording]

Another point raised by journalists was the remarks by French Minister of Budget Michel Charasse, who said his presence in Cuba made it possible for him to discuss

cooperation on energy, including the future of the electronuclear plant. Regarding this point, Codorniu made these comments:

[Begin Codorniu recording] I think the fact that the minister of budget came here and met with a Cuban delegation [words indistinct] is a sign that France is willing to continue to regard nuclear energy as a fundamental aspect. We might say that this relationship is just the beginning. We will have to wait for further technical changes as the result of the minister's visit. He knows just as we do that our country is seeking alternate sources of energy. The minister clearly expressed France's position regarding Cuba. France can offer (?assistance) in the nuclear energy field. We are sure France can participate in any of the aspects related to the generation of electricity through nuclear power. [end recording]

The electronuclear plant in Juragua, Cienfuegos, should deliver to the national electric system 417 megawatts in its first stage. This is equivalent to 20 percent of the energy currently generated in the country's thermoelectric plants. Hence the nuclear specialists are optimistic, determined to complete the project, and will wait for the results of their negotiations in the coming months.

Antigua and Barbuda

Opposition Daily Claims Bird To Step Down

FL2808180792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1523 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Aug 28, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's weekly opposition newspaper, the OUTLET, claims elderly Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. is stepping down from office by November 1. But Bird told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), "I'm going until the end of the term."

In a front-page article on 28 August, the paper said the 82-year-old Bird, who has announced that this term will be his last, "indicated privately, that is, unofficially, that he will step from the highest elected office soon...September 15 has been given as the earliest date, while November 1 (the country's independence day), has been given as the latest possible date on which PM Bird will step down voluntarily, so to speak," the paper added.

A ruling Antigua Labour Party special delegates convention last May failed to elect a leader to replace Bird. His son and Planning Minister Lester Bird and Information Minister John St. Luce both tied for the position when the votes were counted at the convention.

Since then the party has held two unsuccessful caucuses to resolve the stalemate, and Labour and Health Minister Adolphous Freeland been asked to mediate the dispute. Freeland said last week that he hopes to have a solution to the impasse by August 31.

Dominican Republic

* Revenues of 1.361 Billion Pesos Reported

92CA0197A Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 22 Jul 92 pp 1, 6

[Text] Government revenue during the month of June amounted to some 1.361 billion pesos, the National Budget Office (Onapres) reported yesterday.

Of the total revenue collected in June, 812.8 million pesos were earmarked for investment, Onapres reported in its breakdown of the allocation of revenue.

The sum collected is slightly higher than the May total of 1.353.4 billion. June revenue totaled nearly 8 million more than the May figure.

The complete text of the Onapres report reads as follows:

"In order to keep the public informed about government revenue and spending during the month of June, the National Budget Office provides the following details on the year so far.

"Concerning the allocation of public funds, the strategy of President Joaquin Balaguer's government is basically to give priority to agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, energy, health, and education, without neglecting other areas essential to the harmonious achievement of progress and development of the national economy.

"National revenue during the period in question totaled 1,361,078,928 pesos, 812,813,420.06 of which were earmarked for investment.

"The sum of 130,879,734.52 pesos was allocated for agriculture, irrigation, and energy. In particular, the National Institute of Water Resources (Indrhi) received 51,575,058.54 pesos for construction and supervision of the Jiguey-Aguacate Dams and the Sabaneta Dam project, as well as for the construction and repair of canals and maintenance of other dams.

The Dominican Electricity Corporation (CDE) received 30 million pesos to meet that institution's commitments and help improve our country's energy system.

The Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) received 17,015,865.51 pesos for various projects and agricultural programs. The Special Fund for Agricultural-Livestock Development (FEDA) received 1,440,191.15 pesos to strengthen agricultural production programs and related activities, while the La Cruz de Manzanillo Project received 2,178,188 pesos for various crop programs, the National Cotton Institute received 1.5 million pesos, and the Office of Secretary of State for Agriculture received 20.4 million pesos to promote and increase farm production.

The National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewage (Inapa) allocation totaled 34,942,976 pesos, which will go for various programs.

The Central Bank received 287 million pesos to pay the public debt and strengthen our currency. The president allocated 70 million pesos for demonetization. The Santo Domingo Drinking Water and Sewage Corporation received 116,136,443 pesos for construction of the Valdesia-Santo Domingo water pipeline, the Central Cibao pipeline, and other projects.

Finally, allocations to the Office of Secretary of State for Public Works and Communications totaled 198,264,622.15 pesos, while the Government Projects Engineering Supervisory Office received 43,708,558.08 pesos, and the Government Projects Coordinating and Auditing Office was given 23,164,083.04 pesos for projects and programs of social and economic interest throughout the Republic, including housing projects, airports, ports, free zones, water pipelines and sewage systems, highways, rural roads, and the maintenance of streets and historic monuments.

Haiti

Presidential Committee Member on Soares Proposal

FL2908000992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The OAS secretary general's proposal that representatives of Father Aristide and Marc Bazin meet for discussion in Washington next week has given rise to the first reaction from the presidential committee formed by the ousted president.

During an interview on a radio station in the capital, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, a member of that committee, said that his group heard about the new proposal by Baena Soares on the radio. Jean-Baptiste stated that the presidential committee cannot yet comment on this proposal because it does not yet know the purpose of the meeting to be held or what would be discussed.

Still concerning this proposal, Jean Casimir, Haitian ambassador to the OAS, stated that Father Aristide received the invitation as early as 26 August, but that he has not yet given an answer. A short time before the OAS secretary general issued the invitation, in a meeting of the Permanent Council of the organization, the State Department sent a note to invite Haitian Prime Minister Marc Bazin and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to choose a person to represent each of them in those negotiations that will be held to resolve the Haitian political crisis. [sentence as heard]

According to observers who point out that Father Aristide had already rejected the idea of a dialogue between himself and Marc Bazin, the State Department statement is considered a signal to force Aristide to negotiate with Bazin. The secretary general of the organization has rejected all criticism of the institution, criticism alleging that the OAS measures do not provide for resolution of the Haitian crisis.

Parties Said 'Satisfied' With OAS Communique

FL2908001392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Concerning the communique issued by the OAS mission on Friday 21 August, three political parties in the country have already said that they are satisfied with the fact that this organization has realized that it is up to the Haitians to negotiate and solve the problems of their country. Those political parties, however, say that they do not see reasons for the OAS to maintain the embargo on Haiti and that this measure does not favor the democracy that the OAS says it is defending. Those three political parties are National Party for the Defense of the Workers, PNDT; Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti [formerly Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti], MODELH-PRDH; and Mobilization for National Development, MDN.

We note that a few days after the installation of the consensus government, MDN President Hubert de Ronceray stated that his party will leave the Marc Bazin government if the prime minister really wants to negotiate with the ousted president.

Senate Votes To Increase Money Issuance Ceiling

FL2808214392 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1030 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Excerpts] After more than an hour [as heard] of deliberations, the Senate of the Republic has voted on the bill to raise the money issuance ceiling presented about three weeks ago by Finance Minister Weiner Fort. The following is a report by Cayo Gabriel.

[Begin Gabriel recording] After three days of debate, the senators have finally approved the bill to increase the money issuance ceiling as forwarded by the Chamber of Deputies on 12 August. The Senate Finance Committee questioned the monetary authorities of the country about the importance of this increase. The country's economic officials were very clear: This new increase in the money issuance ceiling is absolutely necessary because the country is currently facing a problem of liquid assets in addition to the damaging effects of the embargo. [passage omitted]

[Senate Chairman Dejean Belizaire] The entire bill is under discussion. The entire bill is under discussion. The entire bill is under discussion. [repeats] The entire bill is ready to be voted. Those who are for, please raise your hands. [Counts] Two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve. The bill is unanimously adopted. I therefore urge the first secretary to hasten to forward this bill to the executive so it can be promulgated. I thank the honorable senators as well as the staff, the journalists, and the public who kept us company during this particularly laborious work.

[Gabriel] For his part, Senator Serge Joseph intervened and showed himself very dissatisfied with the senators

who practice the blank seat policy [absenteeism]. [passage omitted] By the way, Sen. Thomas Eddy Dupiton stressed the Senate's concerns before passage of this law. [passage omitted]

The 14 senators, including Sen. Serge Gilles [leader of the National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, who had been under medical treatment in France since last October], unanimously approved this bill. [end recording]

Repression, Torture at Barracks Reported

FL2908000292 Port-au Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Some senators are denouncing the repression holding sway in the country. Amnesty International has revealed the existence of torture chambers and repression structures still operating in Haiti. Some victims emerged from their fear and silence to bring their testimony to Radio Metropole. Today, an accusing finger is directed at the Petion-Ville barracks where all kinds of beatings and humiliation are inflicted on citizens, even teenagers. Let us listen to this report by Jean-Max Blanc.

[Begin recording] Petion-Ville, which used to have a reputation as the calmest city, has become an area that people avoid. The reason is that many consider the barracks of this city to be the toughest barracks in Port-au-Prince today. The Fort-Dimanche barracks, reputedly a barracks where torture takes place, is nothing in comparison with the Petion-Ville barracks at this time, according to the testimony of victims. [words indistinct] pickles is a system of beating that the torturers at the Petion-Ville barracks have established. We heard testimony that most of those who have been victims of pickles take weeks to recover.

In this prison, billy [clubs] bear all sorts of names, names originating in the popular language and Haitian folklore. The statements we will present to you are from some of the victims, young men as well as prominent persons, who, for one reason or another, had a very unpleasant stay in the hell of the Petion-Ville barracks. Those people came out sick and handicapped because of ill treatment. The beating sessions sometimes lasted many hours. Prisoners, who did not appear in court, suffer from beatings with sticks or horsewhips, which will leave them with unforgettable souvenirs. There are cases of people who entered with two eyes and came out with only one. Some who formerly walked straight are now limping. One of the cases is that of a 16-year-old boy who experienced the prison in Petion-Ville because of an apparently banal incident. [passage omitted]

This teen-ager is one of the rare persons willing to testify into our microphone. Some victims who reported ill treatment during their imprisonment refused to speak into our microphone for fear of being pursued. Petion-Ville represents, therefore, a region that people avoid. Car drivers, for example, testified to harsh or unfair fines they were forced to pay. People who spent a day speaking with the military in Petion-Ville recall the rigidity, intransigence, or lack of courtesy that characterized those meetings. [passage omitted]

An Army officer at the Petion-Ville barracks whom we contacted by phone told us that the military did not call the beatings pickles, even if the victims did, without denying that ill treatment exists at the barracks. According to one victim, the term pickles that has now spread through Petion-Ville arises from the fact that the instrument used for the beatings leaves a taste of the spices and pepper used in making pickles.

These testimonies are similar to those denounced recently by Amnesty International when the organization revealed that repression and tortures were widespread in Haiti. The organization acknowledged that the repressive structure had returned to the country because, according to the organization, the oppressors have full freedom of action. Those are nearly the same words used by Senator Guy Bauduy when he spoke, before three of the consensus government ministers, of repression holding sway in the South-East Department. Some senators raised their voices to ask the authorities to halt the repression now spreading throughout the country. [end recording]

Police Raid Suspected Castro Supporters

FL2808235992 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Excerpt] In its latest issue, the daily LE MATIN has reported an anti-Castroist operation carried out jointly by the Investigation and Antigang Service and the Fort-National military. Here is the content of the article.

Detectives of the Investigation and Antigang Service carried out a search and identity verification operation on 25 August against the dangerous clan that has developed in Fort-National, in the northeast of Port-au-Prince, according to what a police source told LE MATIN. The information that the Antigang Service had received over some weeks about several young women and men who say they advocate the ideal of Fidel Castro [words indistinct] criminal acts in the city prompted police officials in Port-au-Prince to raid a home in Fort-National. The police (?made arrests) and seized propaganda materials supporting Cuban President Fidel Castro. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Announces 28 Sep Election Date

FL2908160192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1547 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 29, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's local government polls will be held September 28, Prime Minister Patrick Manning has said.

Manning made the surprise announcement in the House of Representatives during a heated debate on a bill seeking to change the country's fiscal year.

"Madame speaker, members opposite have indicated they are prepared to go up and down the country to argue their case," Manning said. "They will have their wish and I now wish to announce that local government elections will be held on September 28, 1992."

Salinas Cited on Problems in Country, NAFTA

PA2908184692 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] We have worked decisively to continue to resolve the problems in the Mexican countryside, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari stated on 28 August at the closing of the 18th Ordinary Congress of the National Peasant Confederation [CNC].

Speaking to peasants from all parts of the country, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari closed the 18th Ordinary CNC Congress. The president said he has worked decisively to continue resolving the accumulated problems in the Mexican countryside, such as agrarian drainage system problems, past-due loan portfolios, and above all, the limited employment opportunities in the countryside.

[Begin Salinas recording] We want to avoid sons of the peasants being forced to emigrate to other states, to this great city, or to other countries. We want them to find job opportunities in the countryside. [applause] [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari announced that more than 30 percent of the CNC's claims have been resolved. He added that 55,000 deeds to land have been delivered to CNC members, and 100,000 hectares throughout the country have been brought back into production. The president reported that another 450 billion pesos are being channeled to the Rural Bank to end the past-due loan portfolio problem in the Mexican countryside.

The president also referred to the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

[Begin Salinas recording] The NAFTA has opened the world's largest market to Mexican sugar. This is an opportunity for the cane-producing areas of our fatherland. [applause] [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari admitted that these advances will not result in direct [word indistinct] benefits for peasant families.

[Begin Salinas recording] We have not finished, we have not finished yet, comrades. There are still many problems in our countryside; there is still a great deal of poverty. The poorest Mexicans live in rural Mexico. [end recording]

In this ceremony at the CNC building, President Salinas de Gortari witnessed the signing of the agreement on agrarian drainage systems and the peasant-worker agreements. He also swore in the members of the new CNC National Executive Committee, led by Secretary General Hugo Andres Araujo.

The president was accompanied by Agriculture Secretary Carlos Hank Gonzalez; Social Development Secretary Luis Donaldo Colossio; Agrarian Reform Secretary Victor Cervera Pacheco; Genaro Borrego, president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party National Executive Committee; workers; and union and peasant leaders.

Salinas Opens Workers Assembly, Views PECE

PA2908190192 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Report by Jose Miranda]

[Text] On 28 August the Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] held its 114th general assembly. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari stated that his government respects and will continue to support Mexican unions. He also assessed the accomplishments of the Economic Growth and Stability Pact [PECE].

At opening of the 114th CTM Council General Assembly, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari told workers that in modern Mexico the union presence is indispensable.

[Begin Salinas recording] The government will continue to respect and support the work done by Mexican unions. The powerful and active presence of Mexican unions is indispensable. [applause] It is necessary that unions actively participate in the life of our country. [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari assessed the PECE. He said that today, thanks to the efforts of the pact's signatories, the country is experiencing its lowest inflation levels in the past 20 years. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari also said the commercial opening has increased Mexican industries' capacity to compete. Referring to salaries, the president said:

[Begin Salinas recording] We want the increase in real salaries to be maintained throughout the years. We do not want to reach a high salary level that will be subsequently lost. We are committed to maintaining and increasing constantly the real wages of Mexican workers. This can be accomplished through an increase in productivity. [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari explained that workers' accomplishments and rights will continue to be respected.

Speaking on behalf of the CTM Executive Committee, Manuel Montalvo, secretary general of the Morelos State Workers' Federation, said:

[Begin Montalvo recording, in progress] ... our conviction that you are strengthening the structure of a new Mexico, a country where workers will have the dignified life they deserve because of their work and efforts. [end recording]

Also present at the opening of the CTM assembly were CTM leader Fidel Velasquez; Institutional Revolutionary Party President Genaro Borrego; Labor Secretary Arsenio Farell; Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella; Social Development Secretary Luis Donaldo Colossio; and some governors and the directors of the Institute of the National Housing Fund for Workers and the Social Security Fund.

Commerce Secretary on NAFTA Media Requirements

PA3008183692 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Report by Edith Castro]

[Text] Jaime Serra Puche, Commerce and Industrial Development secretary, has stated that news and entertainment media will remain exclusively in Mexican hands within the framework of the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA. Serra noted, too, that there will be an exception to this rule:

[Begin recording] [Serra] None of the communications or entertainment enterprises will change, except for cable television. Investments of up to 49 percent will be accepted in cable television enterprises. We will ensure that this service remains in Mexican hands by accepting only 49 percent. [end recording]

Serra met with media workers and managers and stated that NAFTA requires that public communications networks in the three signatory countries render modern services such as fax, telex, and internal communications. Each of the countries has to ensure the rental of private lines, the connection of terminal equipment to public networks, the interconnection of private circuits to public networks, the use of computers in data processing, and user operational procedures. He admitted that Mexico lags behind in technological and modern services and called for their urgent modernization over the next two years, which is when the treaty implementation will start.

The treaty also determines that the signatory countries will have access to public communication rates; service conditions; technical specifications; pertinent laws on terminal connection requirements; and information on permits, registration, or licenses.

Nezahualcoyotl de la Vega, secretary general of the Radio and Television Workers Union [Sindicato de Trabajadores de Radio y Television], stated the union's commitment to broadcast NAFTA's fundamentals.

[Begin De la Vega recording] We are going to work tirelessly. As Mr. Aguirre said, this is a race and the treaty has to be broadcast through the media, which belongs to businessmen, and with the full cooperation of workers. [end recording]

Adrian Aguirre, the media business sector representative, said they are getting ready to take advantage of the treaty's benefits in both the domestic and the U.S. market, which will allow them a 25 percent share.

Officials on NAFTA's Benefits, Conditions

PA3008190192 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Report by Patricia Gutierrez]

[Text] In the microeconomic plan promoted by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the agroindustrial field will be given a key position so that rural areas may benefit from the historic opportunity that is to be afforded by the North America Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA]. Hank Gonzalez, Agriculture and Water Resources secretary, spoke to members of the National Agriculture Council as he closed a NAFTA information seminar.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] I believe it is time to plant new sugar cane fields and to build new, modern sugar cane processing plants and modern plantations. [end recording]

At the same seminar, Herminio Blanco Mendoza, chief negotiator of the NAFTA agreement, said the agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the United States does not impose fiscal or monetary policy obligations to any of the three signatory countries. The Mexican Government governs its tax policy according to national interests and this is the way it will continue, with or without a treaty, he added.

At the beginning of the seminar, Nicolas Madaguar, president of the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, said the terms negotiated for sensitive agriculture products were ample. He stressed, however, that time passes much quicker than our awareness of it and those who do not prepare right now for the future will suffer an irreparable delay.

Juan Gallardo Turlow, the private sector representative at the NAFTA negotiations, said NAFTA is an agreement that will prompt investment and provide jobs.

FTA Will Affect Grain Producers 'Harshly'

PA2908193892 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] The Free Trade Agreement [FTA] will harshly affect some grain producers, Javier Garza de la Cabada, adviser and former president of the National Agriculture Council, has stated.

Basic grain producers in some parts of the country will be the most affected by the FTA, because they will be unable to compete with foreign producers, Javier Garza de la Cabada said in Monterrey. He warned that producers of basic grains who are unable to compete will have to produce other kinds of grain.

[Begin Garza de la Cabada recording] Basically, the sectors that are devoted to producing basic grains in unsuitable areas will be affected by the FTA. Unfortunately, these sectors will have to switch to other activities to be competitive. I am referring to sectors that produce forage [forrajeros] and basic grains. [end recording]

The former president of the National Agriculture Council added that the constitutional reform has brought private investment to the country.

El Salvador

Cristiani on Compliance With Peace Accords

PA3008234892 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Report by Ervin Ortiz in San Salvador]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said on 28 August the deadline for compliance with the peace accords will not be extended unless demanded by the UN secretary general. Upon his return from the United States, the Salvadoran president said any extension of the deadline for compliance with the accords will be subject to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's decision.

[Begin Cristiani recording] According to the agreements, this could only be done based on the secretary general's decision. This issue is not negotiable. We have pledged to comply with the accords and we expect the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to do likewise. We will have to wait for the verification on 16 October and the secretary general will then decide what is more appropriate. We will fulfill our part of the bargain and we see no reason to extend the deadline beyond 31 October. [end recording]

The president said that, due to recent changes in the timetable, the secretary general must decide if the initial deadline should be extended.

Approval of the date for the implementation of the value added tax is another current topic and the president believes the Legislative Assembly's decision on 27 August is the most appropriate to fulfill pledges within the national reconstruction plan.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I believe it is important to obtain the resources our country needs, particularly when we are working toward the consolidation of the peace process. Any delay in the disbursement of resources would cause critical problems, even for compliance with the agreements. [end recording]

Alfredo Cristiani and members of his cabinet presided over the ceremony to deliver land titles to 50 families living in the community of El Campito, San Jacinto. During the ceremony it was reported 21 communities have qualified as social interest projects and they will be registered at the Liberty and Progress Institute's property files. People who received the land titles now have a duly registered home.

Minister Says Honduran Rights To Be Respected

PA2808162392 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by Norma Jimenez]

[Text] In addition to the six pockets of territory disputed by Honduras and El Salvador, everything indicates that the juridical state of the Gulf of Fonseca is among the most controversial issues due to the two nations' economic interests. Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro said should the International Court of Justice ruling be unfavorable to Honduras, transit through the area to that country would not be blocked:

[Begin Pacas recording] El Salvador would absolutely not prevent Honduras from reaching the sea or its ports, and I do not think Nicaragua would either. I think Honduras has a port on El Tigre Island and we, (?of course), will not prevent Honduran ships from entering or sailing in that area. [end recording]

The foreign minister dissipated residents' fears of being evicted from disputed areas. The diplomatic leader said that will not happen:

[Begin Pacas recording] Area residents should have no fear because El Salvador will respect legitimate property rights. We will respect the rights of those who hold property title deeds that have not been questioned by anyone; that is, we will respect property owners. [end recording]

The status of these people is being studied by a special commission that will define document filing procedures.

Minister on Honduran Troops, FMLN Weapons

PA3108020492 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Report by Alfredo Villareal in San Salvador]

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce said on 28 August the Honduran troops billeted in Salvadoran territory have been removed so he ruled out the possibility of a new confrontation with the neighboring country.

The high-ranking military commander said the Honduran troops billeted in a Chalatenango Department village on the Honduran border have been removed. He said Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] members are the ones actually installed in the local school.

Gen. Ponce ruled out the possibility El Salvador and Honduras will become involved in a new conflict as a result of a border dispute.

[Begin Gen. Ponce recording] This tragedy, this episode in our history that occurred back in 1969, will not be repeated. The Governments, Armed Forces, and friendly people of Honduras and El Salvador are determined to prevent this. No one is thinking about armed conflicts between El Salvador and Honduras. [end recording]

Moreover, the defense minister accused the FMLN of presenting false lists and inventories of weapons. He added the arsenal seized from former rebels during the conflict is stored in the Armed Forces warehouses and they are not being moved elsewhere.

[Begin Gen. Ponce recording] For the past 12 years, the FMLN has been the champion of misinformation and propaganda. A new lie has been invented in an effort to evade its responsibility of providing the United Nations with a real inventory of its weapons. The weapons seized from the FMLN during the conflict are stored, under control, and the Armed Forces is responsible for them. [end recording]

He added there is a lack of coordination among the organizations comprising the FMLN. Some of the members adopt decisions congruent with the peace process and others adopt a warmongering attitude.

[Begin Gen. Ponce recording] I received information on 27 August that a public security committee is being organized in Santiago Nonualco. That is why I say some FMLN organizations are forming these public security committees; others are creating new ones; and, well, what kind of leadership does the FMLN have anyway? That is dangerous for the process. [end recording]

Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce said he feels optimistic the peace accords will be complied with by 31 October. Nevertheless, the Armed Forces will have to play a very important role after that date.

ARENA Leader on Human Rights Investigations

PA2908002892 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Report by Salvador Abarca]

[Text] On 24 August, the United Nations described as insufficient the government's investigations into human rights violations and the death of labor leaders and a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. President Alfredo Cristiani rejected this charge during a U.S. visit.

Meanwhile, Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], rejected the claim and pointed out the government is making efforts to solve such cases.

[Begin Calderon recording] The government of the Republic has done all it can to conduct a genuine investigation to solve these murders. Evidence of this is that it has received valuable testimonies from people who witnessed these actions. [end recording]

Armando Calderon Sol, however, admitted there are limitations:

[Begin Calderon recording] We must also underscore we are facing certain limitations. The country faces limitations in its efforts to investigate crimes. Everyone realizes we must improve our investigation systems. This does not mean, however, that our political determination, the government's determination, and our investigators' efforts do not constitute a true effort to solve these crimes. [end recording]

The ARENA president and San Salvador mayor made these statements during the inauguration of the Tineti housing project that will benefit 95 low-income families. The investment totaling about 2.1 million colons will be financed by the German Technical Cooperation Society.

Rejects 'Gag Laws'

PA3008124292 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party guarantees freedom and democracy in El Salvador; it will never support any bill that attempts to gag freedom of thought in this country, says Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, ARENA president and mayor of San Salvador.

That was the political leader's response when asked his opinion regarding the "freedom of expression law" that certain Christian Democratic [PDC] leaders are proposing.

"We will never support gag laws that threaten freedom of expression. ARENA has been very clear in that regard," Calderon Sol remarked.

He added that the greatest guarantee a free people can have is a free press, radio, and television that can guarantee our freedom from authoritarianism, arbitrary officials, and corruption.

"Why are the left wing and the Christian Democrats afraid of a free press in this country?" the charismatic politician asked as he lashed out at the leftists who are attempting to control the media in El Salvador.

San Salvador's mayor said that journalism is exercised freely in El Salvador and the government of the Republic unconditionally respects the media. "Freedom of thought requires no law in this country," he added.

Calderon Sol remarked that it is not with regulations or by crippling freedom of thought that journalism in El Salvador will be developed or strengthened. "The PDC wants to trample the media," he said.

The mayor said that the bill being prepared by the subcommission, and the position held by the PDC, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], and the entire local left wing is that the media and political parties should be restrained during the electoral campaign and their expenses and the volume [pulgadaje] of their publications controlled. In short, they want to gag freedom of thought, the Arena leader said.

Calderon Sol said he regrets that the "proregulation, procontrol, and prototalitarian minds of Salvadoran left-wingers are attempting to control the media."

He said no country in the world has laws against freedom of expression. He mentioned the example of the electoral campaign in the United States, which is being carried out normally and without any regulations.

"It is regrettable that all those social engineers and doctors who led the country to poverty with their hackneyed populism during the fateful lost decade did not notice what has happened in Europe and the former Soviet Union, which disintegrated," he said.

"These men talk about democracy but democrats are the last thing they are," he concluded.

FMLN Drafts Statutes; To Hold Assembly

PA2808195892 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] this week concluded drafting its statutes to become a democratic, pluralist, and revolutionary political party. The FMLN is currently organizing its first general assembly for 1 September, rebel sources told YSU.

The statutes, which are contained in an eight-chapter, 25-page document, will be ratified by the FMLN General Assembly on 1 September at a San Salvador hotel. All political parties, social groups, the church, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in the country are invited to attend.

The FMLN is a full-time political party that is carrying out activities nationwide. It will have a bright red rectangular flag bearing a white star in the upper-left corner and the FMLN acronym in the center.

According to the statutes, the party's top bodies will be, in order of importance, the National Convention, National Council, and Political Commission. The National Convention will be the FMLN's top authority, and its resolutions and agreements will be final. Compliance with them is obligatory for its members and organizations.

Party leadership tasks will be delegated by the National Council. This council will be made up of 50 permanent members who will be elected by the National Convention for a two-year term. The FMLN National Council will also be made up of nonpermanent members who will be appointed by departmental directorates for a three-year term, the statutes state.

The National Council members, among other duties, will establish the Political Commission through an election from within its ranks, and will establish the party's political line. The FMLN Political Commission, which will be made up of 10 principals and five alternates, will regularly examine the country's situation and determine the party's response.

The Political Commission will have a coordinator who will serve as the party's legal representative and supervise its administration. The FMLN party will have an Honor Tribunal made up of three members who will deal with serious breaches and infractions of the charter of principles and the objectives of the statutes and regulations.

The party's statutes specify FMLN members are people who display correct public and private conduct and support the party's principles, goals, and programmatic platform. These statutes will be approved by the FMLN General Assembly on 1 September, when the FMLN party charter document will be signed.

Military, FMLN Members To Receive Training

PA3008122592 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] Military sources report the National Reconstruction Secretariat, SNR, expects to train 9,000 military and former FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] fighters in the next year so they may contribute to the country's productivity.

On 26 August the SNR delivered diplomas to 167 soldiers from several units—including the Atlacatl Battalion, 5th Military Detachment, Cavalry Regiment, and the 1st Infantry Brigade—after they completed courses in mechanics, electric welding, computers, and a special course in cosmetology for women in the Armed Forces.

SNR spokesmen said in a week 97 more soldiers will graduate as drivers and 10 training courses for drivers will begin around mid September, with the participation of 250 soldiers.

It was reported the military undergoing training are still in active service but they will be transferred to the productive sector once they graduate.

The sources said the training is included in the peace accords, and former FMLN fighters will also participate.

SNR executives will soon meet with FMLN members to get the lists of courses the former guerrillas want to take.

Army, Guerrilla Disabled March to Assembly

PA2808194292 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] In an unprecedented event in Salvadoran history, thousands of former combatants of the Army and the guerrillas marched together on the streets of San Salvador to demand the approval of a law to protect the war disabled. The demonstration was organized by the Association of Armed Forces Disabled [Asociacion de Lisiados de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador—Alfaes] and the Salvadoran Association of Disabled and Handicapped [Asociacion Salvadorena de Lisiados y Discapacitados de la Guerrilla—Asaldig].

We were separated in the war; now we are joined in peace, former guerrillas and Army soldiers shouted, carrying banners and placards. Most of the demonstrators were young men and women. Some were in wheelchairs, others had lost their arms or legs, some were blind and others had some other physical handicap. Gregorio Abarca, a former guerrilla fighter who is now president of Asaldig, described the demonstration as very important and historic. He said: We are united by a common cause and we are now able to extend our hands to each other.

[Begin recording] [Abarca] We want to say that for those of us who are disabled, and for our people and society, what is happening today is very important and historic. We will never forget this. We say this because those of us who in the past had fought each other, now are shaking hands to struggle together for our own interests. The demonstration is being held because eight days ago we presented a bill to the Legislative Assembly and we understand that it will be debated on 27 August. With our presence, we are showing our interest in this bill and we hope that the discussions in the assembly will favor the disabled.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the points in your proposal?

[Abarca] The bill contains a number of points. We propose the creation of a fund to protect the disabled. That is the main point. The bill includes points on housing, land, medical assistance, rehabilitation, and [words indistinct] to rejoin productive life. [end recording]

Carlos Batres, former sergeant of the Ramon Belloso Battalion who is now president of Alfaes, said the Armed Forces war disabled have been abandoned by the military. He said there are about 1,000 amputees who do not receive pensions.

[Begin recording] [Batres] [Words indistinct] there are about 1,000 amputees who do not receive any pension [words indistinct] the institution does not have funds [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] Is your presence here to pressure [words indistinct]?

[Batres] It is direct pressure, as the companero was saying. We have worked hard to draft that bill and it covers the needs of both sides, including the civilian population affected by the war. [end recording]

The leaders of the Army and guerrilla disabled associations said they are demanding housing, land, a decent pension, and medical attention for those left disabled by the 11 years of civil war in the country. Abarca indicated that there are a little over 3,000 war disabled from the guerrilla ranks and that there are about (?9,000) from the Army. To this must be added the thousands of disabled civilians who lived in the strife torn areas, mainly in the country's north, east, and central regions.

The bill also includes the creation of an institute to protect the disabled. The march began in different parts of San Salvador and concluded in front of the Legislative Assembly, where the demonstrators demanded the approval of the special law for the war disabled. The Army disabled applauded the Democratic Convergence deputies who came out to receive them when they arrived at the Legislative Palace and who promised that the bill will be debated.

Guatemala

Vice President Says Peace Talks To Continue

PA2808205992 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Vice President Gustavo Espina has said that the dialogue between the government and the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] will continue, despite the disagreements observed in the last round of talks that concluded in Mexico City on 24 August.

[Begin Espina recording] The government is never going to withdraw from the negotiating table. We have always believed that dialogue is the right path. As in all negotiations, there are ups and downs. Sometimes expectations are very high. Monsignor Quezada has been very wise in recommending against raising expectations because they may not be met. I do not like the guerrillas. I cannot hide this. I think sometimes they act as if they do not really want solution. It is an injustice to see how many people continue to be killed and to suffer [words indistinct]. But this is my personal opinion of the insurgents. The government, through its peace commission, continues to work day and night and is ready for the next meeting called by Msgr. Quezada to sit down at the negotiating table and seek agreement on the human rights issue. This is a difficult topic, and it has taken some time, but you know we are willing to find a solution. This did not occur in the last round but I do not want to blame anyone or [words indistinct] so that the Guatemalans will obtain peace. [end recording]

Rebel Position in Talks Said 'Inflexible'

PA2808170992 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Aug 92 pp 2, 68

[Report by Mario Castro and Raul Meono in Mexico City]

[Text] Serious charges of inflexibility emerged on 24 August at the end of the ninth public round of peace talks. The Guatemalan Government and guerrilla delegations suspended talks on the human rights issue on the night of 23 August.

According to unofficial sources in Guatemala City, the next round of negotiations on human rights will be convened by conciliator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada on 11 September. Msgr. Quezada Toruno views the suspension as an opportunity for both sides to think about their positions.

The insurgents said on 24 August that the government hardened its position on human rights and "will not continue the discussion." Guerrilla commander Pablo Monsanto of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) said the government delegation accuses the guerrillas of being "inflexible," forgetting that no progress was achieved on this occasion because the government delegates refused to change the word "unilateral" to "bilateral."

Monsanto said the government delegation led by Manuel Conde sought a unilateral agreement on the human rights issue. Monsanto added that such an agreement "lacks a number of legal bases to demand respect for what is agreed upon. We would lose our right to demand compliance with such an agreement."

Shortly before returning to Guatemala, Msgr. Quezada Toruno said "both sides agreed on the need to eradicate the civilian population's suffering and to respect the human rights of the wounded, captured, and people who are not involved in the fighting, but no agreement was reached on how to do it."

"The Army," rebel commander Gaspar Ilom said, "insists on violating international human rights. This is evidenced by the capture of companera Maritza Urrutia, who was kidnapped for several days and submitted to physical and psychological pressures. She was then presented saying that she had deserted."

"The same thing happened with companera Olivia, who was kidnapped from her home and after being pressured for several days was forced to state that she had deserted," the commander added.

Commander Rolando Moran of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) said "the hardening of the government's position is the result of the critical phase it is experiencing. Its political, economic, and military plans have failed. Its lack of control as a result of those failures leads to an inability to govern the country."

Meanwhile, government delegation chief Manuel Conde stressed that the topic of respect for the human rights of civilian combatants had been discussed, and he stated that "the government is willing to sign a unilateral agreement. There are collateral situations that the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] placed ahead of the signing of an agreement on human rights."

Alluding to the talks that have begun at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Conde said an agreement could have been reached at the end of the meeting, but the URNG "was particularly inflexible."

The tone of the accusations did not change in the hours after the suspension of the dialogue that will continue on 11 September. "We will try to agree on the date for the plenary session by having the conciliator meet with each party individually," Conde added.

"It is inexplicable that the government does not want to sign a human rights agreement that will become effective immediately. This would help improve its deteriorated international image," Gaspar Ilom said.

According to Pablo Monsanto, "the government talks about signing a peace agreement in a matter of months but refuses to accept a human rights agreement that will become effective immediately."

"It seems the government cannot sign a human rights agreement because of pressure from diverse sectors in the country. The hardening of its position can also be explained because in the previous talks, the government had to yield in the negotiations on the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols (PAC). Now it has refused to seek a solution. The government is probably being pressured by those who oppose justice in Guatemala," Moran said.

Commander Monsanto was more direct and blamed the Army for the hardening of the government's position. "It is provoking a break in the talks. While we talked about the PAC in the previous round, the Army swore in and armed 60 new PAC members."

Rolando Moran of the EGP made the same type of comments. Referring to statements by Defense Minister General Domingo Garcia Samayoa, Moran said the Army "has unleashed a campaign of systematic slander against us, using words that it had never used before."

A few days ago the minister referred to the guerrilla actions as "stupid." The URNG replied, saying it believed the military officer's attitude was "coarse and ridiculous."

"In any case, the URNG wants to make clear that the armed conflict is not the only thing that has caused human rights violations. Human rights are also violated when the people are not provided with health, education, and welfare," Pablo Monsanto said.

Nicaragua

Chamorro on Police Changes, U.S. Aid, Property

PA2808172892 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Report by Vilma Estrada]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro has confirmed that changes will be made in the police force and that properties will be returned to their owners. She said she is confident U.S. aid will be released.

[Begin recording] [Chamorro] I have great faith. I have not lost hope, and I am sure the aid will come. But what should we do if the aid does not come? We will have to work harder. That is what I have always said.

[Unidentified reporter] What signals has the U.S. Government sent that make you feel optimistic?

[Chamorro] I have not received any signals, but I have an enormous faith in God. I am certain the aid will come for our people, for all of us. I hope so. There are still a few days from now to the end of August. [end recording]

President Chamorro added that should the aid not arrive, measures will have to be taken, such as increasing taxes.

[Begin recording] [Chamorro] What will happen? What happens anywhere when there is no money? Well, taxes may be raised a little and some measures will have to be taken so we will survive. There is no question about that. I do not think we should depend on gifts. We must work. [end recording]

Chamorro confirmed changes will be made in the police.

[Begin Chamorro recording] There will be changes, just as there have been reductions in the Army, and changes in many other areas. Have we not been making changes every day for the past two years? There will be changes in the police, just as there have been cabinet and other changes. This does not mean we will be degrading anyone. Changes are necessary, that is all. [end recording]

Minister, Army Chief Summoned on Helicopter Sale

PA2908003392 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The National Assembly Finance Commission has summoned General Humberto Ortega and Finance Minister Emilio Pereira to report on 31 August on the sale of helicopters to Peru.

According to our sources, the deputies are going to demand the officials fully explain this business deal in which several million dollars are reportedly involved. It is said the helicopters were sold for $25 million.

It has been learned from the Soviet Union [as heard] Embassy in Nicaragua that the Moscow authorities are displeased over the sale of these helicopters, which were donated to the former Nicaraguan regime. Some government sources have said these funds could serve to make payments on the foreign debt with the Soviet Union. The Soviets think it is in poor taste to pay them by using machinery they donated.

Ortega on NAFTA, Integration, U.S. 'Pressure'

PA2808150092 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Interview with Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, during a roundtable attended by local and foreign correspondents and unidentified moderator at the Radio Ya studios in Managua on 25 August; monitored in progress—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] Aura Elida Moreno of EL NUEVO DIARIO.

[Moreno] Commander, what is the objective of all these talks with the government? I am asking you this because on 24 August Commander Henry Ruiz said that those talks [words indistinct] waste of time, something of the past, a waste of time.

[Ortega] I believe that the Nicaraguan people cannot turn their backs on a dialogue. Experience has taught us that talks are beneficial even when they are held under very difficult and adverse conditions. Just imagine what Central America would be like if the parties in conflict, that is, the Central American peoples with all their internal contradictions and U.S. policy, would have closed their ears and refused to talk. Had that been the case, Central America would surely be involved in a bigger war than the one that was waged in the eighties. But it was the dialogue—the dialogue that we the Sandinists promoted through Contadora, in Esquipulas, in Sapoa with the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance—that created the conditions for Central America to begin a peace process.

Following the 25 February elections, a dialogue was held and this resulted in the first peaceful change of command in the history of our country. Likewise, it was the dialogue that allowed the country to overcome huge problems in 1990 and in 1991. At that time we held the concerted talks on phase one and phase two. Producers, workers, and the government attended those talks. We also held talks with the United States and the EC. From the very beginning of the revolution the Sandinists began talks with the United States. In September 1979 I met with President Carter in an attempt to establish good and [word indistinct] between the United States and Nicaragua. Those very controversial talks were held with the U.S. leaders, and we continue to talk with them. Some of our comrades have been in contact with U.S. officials. Therefore, no dialogue is useless.

I believe that the most serious thing that could happen is for a break in communications to occur. As long as we can communicate there is hope in finding a solution to the problems. We believe that it is necessary to increase our rapport with the government. In other words, in addition to attending to those situations we experience on a daily basis in our country, it is necessary for us to increase our rapport with the government. For this reason we have presented an economic proposal. We presented the proposal in an attempt to direct the economic policy in a less tense direction. It is a proposal that will represent less sacrifice to the already poor people, one that will truly create appropriate conditions for an economic reactivation and to create jobs. We must admit that, on the one hand, the government has made a very big effort to stabilize our currency in its struggle against inflation. We must not overlook that fact. However, this was done at a very high cost. People became poorer, there is much unemployment, and what is worse, it caused an economic recession.

A measure of this nature, to combat inflation and stabilize our currency, should create the conditions for the economy to improve in the short term and create new jobs. Unfortunately, this has not happened in our country. This is not something that only occurs in Nicaragua. If it did occur only in Nicaragua then we could claim that it is the result of so many problems, polarization; however, this is not something that occurs only in Nicaragua. It happens in every Third World

country. It happens in all those Latin American countries that are victims of the economic adjustment policy, the so-called neoliberals. For further proof of this all we have to do is look at the UN reports. You will see that the UN stresses that the economic adjustment policies have represented a 2 percent drop in the economic growth of Latin America and the Caribbean. The UN also stresses that the economic adjustment policies have represented a serious problem for the health and education plans. In other words, the economic adjustment policies have not been successful in promoting economic growth or social growth. The economic adjustment policies are negative policies. The Latin American rulers agree that these are not the best policies but, unfortunately, the international economic throne is so powerful, hegemonic, and unipolar, that it imposes its wishes quite easily. Therefore, we must work in that direction as well. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] PRENSA LATINA correspondent Pedro Ricoseco has the floor.

[Ricoseco] Good morning Commander. I would like you to broach two topics. First, the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and Central America. The framework for the agreement was signed recently in Managua. Some Nicaraguan economists and private producers, members of various organizations, believe that this agreement, implementation of which will occur in 1996, is a coup d'grace for the small- and medium-sized Nicaraguan industry. They believe that four years is not long enough for the small- and medium-sized industries to prepare to resist favorably the economic avalanche of Mexican products as well as the North American products which will be coming in as a result of Mexico's integration with the United States and Canada. That is my first question.

My second question, commander, is on the so-called transition agreements or protocol of transition. To what extent is the FSLN willing to accept pressure by the United States on aspects that were agreed upon in a protocol of transition? As the government has noted, this protocol is already obsolete as it has been two years since it was signed. Some aspects are being discussed currently which specifically imply a change in meeting the demands made by the U.S. congressmen, who question basic aspects of that protocol signed at the time by the FSLN. To what extent is the FSLN willing to accept points that question the national political stability?

[Ortega] Concerning that topic of integration, we have warned about the risks entailed in integration, particularly when the country that is going to join into this integration has not duly prepared for it. As it is, Nicaragua is at a disadvantage in the face of the other Central American countries, not to mention the disadvantages [as heard] Nicaragua lost in the face of other countries with a greater developmental, economic, and commercial potential.

With regard to this topic of integration, we think that we must act cautiously, which calls for immediately undertaking actions that will protect the national industry and producers and will put them in a competitive position. I believe this is an objective that we must fight for so the national producers will become competitive.

This necessarily calls for modifying the policies that currently are imposing high costs on the national producers. In other words, there are distortions of all kinds that are imposing high costs on the national producers. Building in Nicaragua is most expensive, it is the most expensive in all of Central America and perhaps one of the highest in Latin America. The production of basic goods, of consumer articles, in Nicaragua is the highest and most expensive in Central America and in Latin America. In other words, costs are extremely high. To this effect, we believe the government must act quickly and seek international advice.

We were conversing with IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Yglesias on this subject, because we are worried about the Central American integration process. There are some Nicaraguans who would rather transfer or seek capital being offered to other Central American countries and sell their products there because it is more competitive and favorable for them.

Thus, one of the points that we have emphasized in the economic document that we presented to the government and which is a document that we have not yet [words indistinct] is precisely the point dealing with the national producers, ranging from the industrial producer to the agricultural producer. The bananas produced in Costa Rica are cheaper than the bananas produced in Nicaragua. We must liberate this situation among the [words indistinct] so that Nicaragua will be in better shape in an integration process.

As for the transition agreements, we feel they are valid as they are in line with the Constitution. In other words, these agreements had a political impact, but they refer to the constitutional framework of the country. In other words, these are not agreements that go beyond the limits of the Constitution, but they are within the framework of the laws and the spirit of the Constitution. [paragraph as heard]

We consider we must denounce before the U.S. Executive Branch and the State Department the current attitude of U.S. extremist sectors, such as Jesse Helms and some officials with tremendous responsibilities such as Mr. Aronson, who has adopted an extremist position that coincides with the attitude of Mr. Jesse Helms. Such attitudes do not correspond to the constructive stand of President Bush in the letter he sent me after 25 February [1990]. In this letter, President Bush congratulated me, the Sandinists, and the Nicaraguan people for the efforts we had been waging in the pacification tasks and in those elections. Bush committed himself to contribute in whatever way the United States could to this process.

In other words, we see here a discrepancy between what President Bush has been saying on the one hand, and in what Mr. Aronson is doing on the other hand.

Under these circumstances, Secretary of State Baker has been transferred to work on President Bush's presidential campaign. Bush is now fully immersed in the presidential campaign. U.S. decisions on Nicaragua now are, practically speaking, in the hands of Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

We know that the United States exerted much pressure so that the Nicaraguan Government would dismiss the chief of police and that the government decided to comply so the U.S. Government would release the $116 million due for release.

The Nicaraguan Government spoke immediately with the police command and with us and said it was prepared to promote the prompt approval of a law providing stability for police officers. This is one weakness of the police. There is no such law and so they are exposed to pressure from the outside and from within.

The Nicaraguan Government promised to dismiss the police chief and to make certain changes, which had been approved prior to this dialogue between the Nicaraguan and the U.S. Governments, prior to the pressure from the North Americans. This change includes the retirement of 13 companeros—all police commanders and police brigade commanders. It happens now that Aronson, acting as a spokesman for Mr. Jesse Helms and taking advantage of the fact that President Bush and Secretary Baker are engaged in a presidential campaign—which by the way is very difficult for them because Clinton, the Democratic Party candidate, is leading—now Aronson is setting new conditions, conditions that involve an eventual massive returning of property to North Americans and former Somozists who acquired U.S. citizenship. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] We continue this roundtable with FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega. Osvaldo Bonilla, UPI correspondent in Managua, will ask the next question.

[Bonilla] Commander Ortega, three quick questions. The first is on the changes in the police. It seems the FSLN National Directorate agrees with these changes, with or without U.S. pressure. But what if there was direct pressure to replace Army Commander Humberto Ortega?

Another question. Even though it is said the FSLN is cogoverning with President Chamorro, since July 1990 the FSLN has been accused of wanting to destabilize the government, first with the big strike in July 1990 which, according to then Central Bank President Francisco Mayorga, left $38 to $40 million in losses. Since the strike, there have been a great number of demands, including the demand for 6 percent of the budget for the universities. The FSLN had forgotten about university autonomy and issued the 6 percent law on 4 April 1990, shortly before turning over power. Now there are other demands from teachers and the disabled. The demands from transporters have just been answered. Their action left $18 million or 38 million cordobas in losses. It is said that all these demands are led by the FSLN so that Daniel Ortega will appear as the great savior.

Another question concerns the helicopters. As president, you were the one who bought those helicopters. Can you tell us how much each helicopter is worth and whether you know anything about this deal or sale of helicopters to Peru?

[Ortega] Regarding the changes in the police, we have agreed with and supported the work being done by the police in its reorganization. This work includes the basic police law. This work is being carried out with advice from Spain. In this reorganization process, the retirement of 10 commanders and three brigade commanders had been contemplated for some months. This falls within a normal process to improve the organization of the police, which had a different profile during my government and which gained a new profile with the current government.

This in no way means the police are now going to be directed by U.S. Government officials. This does not mean that the U.S. Government is going to interfere with the police. When the U.S. Government exerts pressure to have companero Rene Vivas removed as police chief, we reject this type of action. We do not agree with this and we consider it inadmissible because this is simply foreign meddling. Nicaraguans cannot accept that a foreign power comes to decide who should be chief of police and who should command the army. If this is allowed, later it will come to appoint ministers and presidents. That is inadmissible.

We made our position clear to the government so we reported this act as political persecution. We would understand if the proposal to change or remove someone from the police came because he was accused of disobeying the government. But that is not the case. Instead, he is being removed simply for thinking like a Sandinist, and that is called political persecution, that is called a violation of human rights, and that is called a violation of individual rights. A precedent cannot be set.

The government has told us that in the face of the U.S. Government's position, the government decided to make its own decision. In other words, the government is trying to distance itself from the U.S. pressure. But in practice that U.S. pressure exists. From the latest government statements through Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, we understand that the Nicaraguan Government is not setting the precedent. Minister Lacayo stated that the Nicaraguan Government is not willing to remove the police chief as long as the United States withholds the (?$116) million in financing. This topic is very sensitive because with this action the United States is trying to return to its traditional policy toward Nicaragua of appointing officials, from police chiefs to presidents.

I think all Nicaraguan people, political forces, economic sectors, and the government must reject this. It is true that the pressure has not only been maintained but has

been intensified. This is why we want to make known the attitude of Mr. Aronson, who is acting as an agent for the most vindictive and right-wing sectors of the United States. He is not acting as a spokesman of President Bush but as the spokesman of Mr. Jesse Helms, with all the conditions they want to impose on Nicaragua. Our position is that the government should respect the country's laws and in the case of the Army, it should respect Army regulations, which also are set down in the Constitution. That is not the case with regard to the police and this is the vacuum that was created and was used by the United States to exert pressure. This vacuum will be eliminated when we pass the police basic law, which will provide stability to its commanders, regardless of their ideology. [passage omitted]

Regarding the helicopters, during my government, the policy we followed was to seek donations for arms, ammunition, and everything else. We did not spend a penny on arms. We did not purchase a single tank, a single helicopter, or pay for helicopters, tanks, cannons, or rifles, and we did not pay for their transportation. These were resources that countries like Algeria, Greece, the Soviet Union, and DPRK sent as donations to Nicaragua. We needed weapons to defend ourselves from armed aggression.

In other words, we were not interested in arming ourselves. It so happens that the U.S. policies consisted of armed aggression and this forced us to arm ourselves to defend ourselves. Had the United States encouraged a political struggle, we would not have had to make these efforts to bring arms to our country. These helicopters were donated by the Soviet Union and now the army is putting them on the international market to obtain funds for the comrades who are still in the army—at least for those comrades who retain the [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Recontra operations in northern Nicaragua continue and have even increased lately, encouraged by extremist groups in Nicaragua and by U.S. extremists and certain U.S. agencies such as the CIA. This includes rebels such as [Jose Angel] Moran [Flores], who was known as El Indomable, and who moved from Miami to Honduras and entered Nicaraguan territory on 19 July [1991]. He died in an attempt to regroup all these forces and subject the country to direct pressure by U.S. extremists and Nicaraguan extremist groups, using political pressure and armed pressure through these rearmed groups.

This is part of a whole series of pressure strategies that have been made to counter the efforts that the majority of Nicaraguans have been making for true reconciliation and stability. We condemn these criminal activities and demand that these criminals be pursued.

[Moderator] Such actions show that Nicaragua has not attained full peace. Has this topic been discussed by the FSLN and the government?

[Ortega] This is a topic that cannot be passed up in these talks. Logically, the government has no other option than to ensure, especially through the Army, that it safeguards and guarantees life and property for the peasant population, workers, and other people who are victims of attacks by these regrouped recontras.

[Moderator] The government is getting rid of arms that were acquired by the Sandinist government during the toughest war years. Some reports, however, indicate that groups are rearming in different places in Nicaragua. What is your opinion on this?

[Ortega] We have always been in favor of the country having a very efficient and professional defense structure, but the people should participate. In other words, the country's defense must incorporate the people. It did until recently, even when the recontras regrouped in 1991, at the end of 1990. We must remember that the recompas had to regroup to support the Army to stem recontra activities until a significant number of recontras disarmed. Eventually this was followed by the recompas disarming.

We understand that recontra groups are very active in the country's northern area and also the central area toward Boaco and Chontales Departments. There is concern about what were once recompa groups, who are talking about regrouping to face the recontra groups that are committing crimes like those reported this morning. I think that the level of armament [10-second break in transmission] the way it took place more than 10 years ago has no reason to occur. I think that Nicaragua can defend itself very well and the Army should guarantee this by having armament that is adequate to the forces it must face. I am talking about these groups. The important thing is not to allow them to gain strength and to ensure they disband when they enter the [word indistinct] phase. [passage omitted]

Ortega on Upcoming Congress, FSLN Changes

PA3008201792 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] Daniel Ortega, FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] secretary general, has confirmed there could be "gradual and not traumatic" changes in the FSLN National Directorate announced at the special congress to be held at the end of December. He also disqualified Deputy Herty Lewites' candidacy to a senior position on the FSLN board.

"It is logical for special matters to be broached at a special congress," Ortega said. He added that his party will try to emerge from the congress "cohesive" and with a united position in regard to the country's current situation, which he called "serious."

Ortega, who answered questions posed by domestic and foreign reporters at Radio Ya for more than three hours on 26 August, did not deny the possibility that "new organizational structures" could materialize in his party because of new circumstances in Sandinism. He even

said that what is known as the "National Directorate" could be changed into another type of directorate.

On several occasions Ortega evaded questions on the possibility of electing new directorate members but he admitted that this had been one of the main topics at the First FSLN Congress in July and that "the process will be gradual because the National Directorate has played a historic role."

Ortega indirectly mentioned Herty Lewites' candidacy when he said "this is not a race" and pointed out that you have strive to be a fundamental member (and not a National Directorate member) to be able to attain true leadership. His statements lead us to conclude that Lewites has never been a fundamental member.

Ortega, however, admitted that "any Sandinist has a right to advance to a position within the party" but insisted that leadership is won "at the grassroots and beside the people."

Mr. Ortega said he believes the new National Directorate members "have to come from the bases so as to complement their leadership qualities." He, thus, again disqualified Lewites' candidacy.

Ortega estimated that "a new mentality" is taking shape within Sandinism and said the special congress will attempt "to achieve more cohesion in the FSLN," despite the discrepancies and contradictions that are increasingly more evident in that party.

Ortega Condemns U.S. 'Pressure'; Modesto Cited

PA3008190292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Aug 92 pp 1, 12

[Text] Nagarote—During the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the fall in combat of Silvio Mayorga, the founder of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], party leader Daniel Ortega condemned the U.S. "pressure" on Nicaragua and compared Senator Jesse Helms with Anastasio Somoza.

Ortega said the Republican senator, the mastermind behind the withholding of aid to Nicaragua, is defending "the properties of many yankees, who were Somoza's accomplices."

In a crowded ceremony in front of the Silvio Mayorga Mausoleum in the Central Plaza of this town in Leon Department, the Sandinist leader belittled the effects of the suspension of the $100 million in U.S. aid.

"The Nicaraguan people have to build Nicaragua by themselves so we can learn to demonstrate that we are the ones who must make the decisions," he said.

Alluding to the meeting between Sandinist leaders and government representatives on 24 August, Ortega said "they promised us they would not return land, houses, and plots of land," so the population must organize to prevent evictions "which the government has not authorized."

Ortega said the government promised it would only review property cases to compensate those people who were adversely affected. "That seems fair, we agree, but we do not accept evictions," he said.

Ortega, who did not refer to the most recent controversy within Sandinist ranks regarding the holding of a special congress, said their response to the evictions is "to organize better and oppose" such measures.

Modesto in Managua

In Managua, Commander Henry Ruiz, alias Modesto, participated in an FSLN-organized tribute to the 25th anniversary of Pancasan's Heroic Deed.

The former legendary Sandinist guerrilla fighter said the FSLN must formulate new objectives, methods, and forms of struggle to preserve the gains achieved during the revolution.

The Sandinist leader said he supports a dialogue with the government "but under new political terms" because the Army is now evicting peasants and police are beating up people on the streets."

Ruiz said the current government, instead of implementing social and economic policies for the benefit of the people, "has implemented a Structural Adjustment Plan, which came from the minds of U.S. Government leaders."

Ruiz said Pancasan is the undeniable symbol of the party's moral strength.

FSLN Demands 'Unconditional' Aid Disbursement

PA3108035092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Aug 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate at its regular meeting, noted the importance of advancing the process of reorganization and promoting the internal changes necessary to help strengthen the party identity and unity.

In a public communique, the directorate states that notwithstanding this goal, the tasks that should unite and mobilize the FSLN at this time are the struggles against unemployment, hunger, and corruption; and the support of property ownership, health, education, respect for the autonomy of the Atlantic Coast, and defense of the country's sovereignty.

During the meeting, at which the country's economic, social, and political crisis was discussed, the Sandinist leaders repudiated U.S. "pressures" and demanded from the U.S. Government the "unconditional" disbursement of the funds that have been withheld "to help promote respectful relations" between the two countries.

The FSLN communique states that the U.S. aid "was a commitment for stability," agreed upon by the two governments in exchange for the withdrawal of Nicaragua's suit at the International Court of Justice at The

Hague, which obliged the United States to pay Nicaragua an indemnity of up to $17 billion.

Panama

Presidential Decree Explains Ford's New Duties

PA3008212092 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Aug 92 p 22

[Text] Second Vice President Guillermo Ford resigned as planning and economic policy minister on 27 August and assumed new responsibilities.

Decree No. 17 signed by President Guillermo Endara Galimany authorizes Vice President Ford to carry out the duties of coordination, management, and supervision of the process for the implementation of the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy.

An extensive note issued by the Presidency on 27 August states that the national government approved, by means of Cabinet Resolution No. 71-A of 14 May 1991, the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy at the request of the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry at a cabinet council meeting.

Whereas:

It is a priority of the national government to continue to take the necessary steps aimed at ensuring the fulfillment of the goals, plans, and programs contained in the aforementioned Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy.

The drafting of the proposal for the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy fell under Ford's responsibilities as planning and economic policy minister and as second vice president.

The implementation of the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy requires permanent follow-up by the government institutions in charge of specific tasks and duties within the program.

It is the duty of the president to coordinate the work of the administration and of the government institutions, as well as to assign the appropriate duties and missions to the vice presidents;

Decrees:

Article 1: The second vice president will be in charge of the coordination, management, and supervision of the process for the implementation of the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy in all of its aspects, subject to the guidelines and policies of the president.

Article 2: In the fulfillment of his duties, Second Vice President Ford will have the following responsibilities:

A. Permanently tracking the implementation of the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy in its economic, financial, and legal aspects, and informing the president about the progress achieved or any difficulties that may found.

B. To make suggestions and recommendations to the president or to the cabinet council, as the case may be, aimed at achieving the optimum development in the implementation of the aforementioned program in the exercise of the attributions contained in Paragraph A of this article.

C. To submit to the president and to the cabinet council periodic reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Program for the Development and Modernization of the Economy in each of its components and make recommendations to the president and the cabinet council.

D. To represent the president at international forums in which the Republic of Panama is to participate, subject to the instructions and guidelines received from the president.

E. To represent the country in vice presidential forums held in the Central American isthmus.

F. To carry out any other duty assigned by the president.

Article 3: The second vice president, in the fulfillment of his responsibilities, will receive the support of the National Economic Council (CENA), the meetings of which he must attend and actively participate.

The coordinating unit of the government's economic program will provide assistance to the second vice president in the fulfillment of his duties.

All central government institutions, as well as decentralized institutions, will provide the necessary support and assistance to the second vice president.

Party Leaders Comment on Ford's Resignation

PA2808193892 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] While Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement President Alfredo Ramirez said that for the time being Vice President Guillermo Ford does not aspire to the presidency, [Civic Crusade leader] Dr. Carlos Abadia said it is expected that Mr. Ford will run for president. He added that this is the reason for Ford's resignation. We also have reaction from Dr. Tomas Herrera, coordinator of the Civic Renewal Party, who said that Vice President Ford will continue to control the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy. Let us hear their reactions:

[Begin recording] [Abadia] Something that has been speculated about for some time has become a reality. It is no secret that Mr. Ford hopes to become a presidential candidate in 1994. He wanted to leave the ministry to

reduce the political pressure on him. I think they continue to put the party before the fatherland; they continue to think of political aspirations rather than patriotism. That is my opinion.

[Unidentified reporter] Continuing with reactions to the resignation of Vice President Guillermo Ford from the post of planning minister, Dr. Tomas Herrera, coordinator of the Civic Renewal Party, is here with us. What do you think about Mr. Ford's resignation?

[Herrera] First, since Mr. Ford will continue to handle the debt renegotiation, which is one of the fundamental aspects of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, he will continue to be the planning minister. He will be the planning minister behind the scenes.

On the other hand, it is clear that he is preparing his presidential candidacy. He is trying to make some political accommodations. He wants to be able to do so without the limitations of being planning minister.

These are the two main issues. We do not know what the final political accommodations will be. Maybe he made a move similar to the one General Paredes made [in 1983 Gen. Paredes retired from the National Guard to become a presidential candidate and was betrayed by Gen. Manuel Noriega, who refused to endorse his candidacy]. [end recording]

PRD, Former Commanders View U.S. 'Stratagem'

PA2908020192 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1807 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Panama City, 28 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—A political source reported on 28 August that the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the ruling party under the previous Panamanian Government, reviewed with former military commanders an alleged U.S. "stratagem" to maintain its bases in Panama beyond this decade.

"It was not a clandestine, but an open and public meeting," Mitchel Doens, a prominent PRD leader, told ACAN-EFE when asked about a meeting held last week.

PRD Deputy Balbina Herrera said there have not been any military leaders in Panama since the 1989 U.S. military invasion and that therefore "no one can say we met with military leaders, if that is why we are being criticized."

Mitchel Doens said that, in addition to U.S. military presence, they discussed with the former Panamanian military leaders the acute security problems Panamanians are facing since Guillermo Endara assumed power in the midst of the invasion.

"The country is practically unprotected," he stressed.

Doens said that the meeting was also an opportunity to analyze the constitutional amendments ordering the elimination of an army that has not existed since the invasion, which the country will either approve or reject in a referendum scheduled for 15 November.

As they were drafted, the amendments leave open the possibility that someone (in Washington) may say that "we are violating the treaties, because we do not have a defense instrument," Doens noted.

"The United States could use that as an excuse to maintain its military presence beyond the year 2,000," Doens added.

Panama and the United States signed a treaty in 1977 in which Washington promised to end its military presence in Panama—10,000 permanent soldiers— and return important civilian and defense facilities it currently has in the canal area.

Mitchell Doens said that the PRD has met not only with former military leaders, but also with all sectors interested in Panama's future in an effort to find effective arguments to convince the people to vote against the constitutional amendments in the referendum.

The PRD feels that the most fit to analyze the subject of the military presence and the country's internal security are precisely the former Panamanian military leaders. Some of them, like Colonel Daniel Delgado Diamente, coordinated security matters with the Pentagon.

"Panama cannot renounce the defense of its sovereignty, we cannot renounce the treaties, and we cannot leave our society in the state it is today," Doens stressed.

In addition, he noted that "in today's world, militarism is declining."

However, "we are an occupied nation, where U.S. military presence is obvious and concrete; it can be seen every day," Doens concluded.

U.S. Poster Offering Reward Criticized

PA2908153092 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p A4

["Foreign Rewards" by Melquiades Valencia]

[Text] When James Aparicio, a colleague and a friend of mine, showed me a sample of the leaflets that U.S. Southern Command agents in the Panama Canal area have been distributing throughout the city, my heart shrunk and I felt defeated. This is a poster about the people wanted for having allegedly carried out an attack in which a U.S. soldier died.

No sooner has one recovered from a shock, when another event sets the adrenalin flowing. This is always over a matter of dignity, respect, self-respect, and principles. I have been wondering: How long will this country have to endure the teasing, the bullying, and the abuse by imperial hordes who have not learned how to show respect for their fellow human beings, especially for a people defeated militarily?

I have searched for a similar situation to see if the United States is being dogmatic and the answer is that this reward poster practice that the gringos initiated in the wild west has been implemented in Panama since the days of the transit of goods and gold along the famous Las Cruces Path. This practice is not new.

But it is irksome. Self-styled statesmen and "know-it-alls" have stated their opinion of Panama's domestic matters, on how we should behave, dress, vote, and talk. They want to pick our friends and tell us with whom we should have diplomatic and trade relations. What really upsets me is to see how the people of this country look the other way, as if they do not hear or see. Only a few isolated people protest the huge prerogatives that our "friends" have taken.

This situation is similar to you allowing your neighbor to come to your house every evening to tell you how to manage your home, what clothes to wear, what party to attend, where to put your bedroom furniture, and to scold you for not following orders. For Christ's sake, let's at least complain!

I am not saying this to defend people I do not know. I do not want to endorse acts of violence in my dear country, either. No. But if the gringos want to offer an incentive to our country's squealers, they should do it through a Panamanian organization such as the Foreign Ministry, the Public Force, the Technical Judicial Police, or any other Panamanian state agency, instead of rubbing salt into the wounds opened as a result of the 20 December 1989 event, which I am sure is the genesis of the problem we are now discussing.

We do not know the motive of the attack in which U.S. soldier Zak Hernandez died on 10 June on the Transisthmian Highway, near Chilibre. Guilty or not, the people involved are citizens who must be sought by citizens and tried by a national court. On what grounds does the United States openly come out and offer a reward for the three suspects and ask that information be provided to the Southern Command? The United States wants to arrest the three to put them on trial in the United States, and some Panamanian authorities, for goodness sake, are validating this!

The United States definitely has no respect for us. It does not even mask its now open meddling in Panama's domestic affairs and it does not care about the image it may be projecting with this attitude to neighboring countries. I think the Panamanian Government must put an end to this U.S. attitude toward Panama, an attitude that is being made plain by U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton.

I recall that the United States tried to do the same thing in Colombia. It began searching for drug boss Pablo Escobar Gaviria. But when it went too far, the Colombian president ordered its agents out of Colombia and to withdraw from the operation. The reward for Escobar is being offered by the Colombian Government, not by the United States, which supposedly is very much harmed by this drug trafficker's activities. Panama must learn from this example.

What finally sank me into sadness and dejection was to hear former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez saying that he is working so that in the forthcoming referendum in Panama on 15 November, we Panamanian's will vote in favor of reforming Panama's Constitution.

This gentleman, who came to Panama with a "wisdom" validated by his adulators, has told fools how to eliminate the Panama Defense Forces but did not say how to get rid of the gringo army. Amidst the smell of expensive perfume, he was given a standing ovation, and he felt like a new Praetorian Verres. From San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, he has told us Panamanians—perennial blockheads and asses—what is best for us. How long are we going to allow cretins to tell us how to cook and eat a Panamanian sancocho?

Group Opposing Reforms Issues Communique

PA2908032992 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p 68

[Communique issued by the National Front Against Constitutional Reforms in Panama City on 26 August]

[Text] Declaration of Principles of the National Front Against Constitutional Reforms [Frente Nacional Por El No a las Reformas Constitucionales, FRENO].

Considering that:

1. In June 1992, the Legislative Assembly passed Legislation 1, which proposes to reform 57 articles of the 1972 Constitution.

2. According to the Constitution, this Legislation 1 must be voted in a referendum to be held on 15 November 1992 so the Panamanian people can decide whether the reforms are workable.

3. The reforms which Legislation 1 intends to make to the 1972 Constitution do not even come close to solving the most pressing problems of the Panamanian democratic system. The reforms do not provide the necessary mechanisms to consolidate democracy in Panama, do not uphold representative democracy, do not establish a participating democracy mechanism, do not provide for the control of the exercise of public power, and do not provide mechanisms to guarantee the effective exercise of the citizens' rights to check arbitrariness and stop corruption in the public administration, thus preventing the Panamanian people from dealing firmly with the great national problems.

4. In view of the political crisis in Panamanian society, rather than approving constitutional reforms, we must abolish the 1972 Constitution and draft a new one, which should be the result of a National Constituent Assembly and which should guarantee true democracy

with new and democratic rules of the game accepted by the great majority of Panamanians. Rather than reforms, we need a constitution to protect systematically human rights, an updated constitution that would serve as a symbol and confirmation when the 21st century arrives.

Consequently, FRENO hereby declares:

1. To force the executive to convene a National Constituent Assembly, FRENO will urge the people to vote no, at the referendum to be held on 15 November 1992, on the reforms approved by the Legislative Assembly.

2. In the new constitution, which should be the result of a National Constituent Assembly, FRENO will advocate the inclusion of the necessary stipulations to ensure there will never again be military forces in our country.

3. FRENO is not affiliated to any political party—either created or in formation. Therefore, FRENO is wide in scope and open to the participation of all circles of Panamanian society.

[Issued] Panama City, 26 August 1992.

Foreign Minister Departs for Jakarta, Taipei

PA3108035692 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Aug 92 p 8D

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares departed the country this weekend to participate in the Summit of Nonaligned Countries and in a meeting between Central American foreign ministers and authorities of the Republic of China to discuss possible plans for economic cooperation with the region.

Linares will participate first in the Nonaligned Summit to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1 to 6 September. He will reiterate Panama's position that the movement needs to be redefined.

Panama feels that the nonaligned countries should plan economic strategies to promote the integration and growth of Central American countries.

Afterward, Linares will travel to Taipei, where he will participate in a three-day meeting with Central American foreign ministers beginning on 3 September. The purpose of the meeting is to join efforts to convince Taiwanese authorities to carry out economic development programs in the region.

The meeting's agenda will encompass technical cooperation, economic assistance, promotion of trade and investments, and vocational training, among other topics.

Government Intelligence Apparatus Criticized

PA2908031892 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p 5

[From the "Phoenix" column by De Janon; punctuation marks as published]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We have received reports from the SPI (The Institutional Protection Service) we would like to make public. I am assured that this espionage agency has installed *a listening house* in the Balbuena neighborhood in David (Chiriqui), to tap telephone calls and listen to telephone conversations of certain political and union leaders. History repeats itself as this intelligence activity reminds us of the General Staff G-2 and of First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon's *La Casita*... with the difference being that when the military did it, it was called an attack against the civil rights of the Panamanian people... but since it is now the leaders of the *made in the U.S.A.* [preceding phrase in English] democracy who are doing it, it is a matter of national security. I must... then... charge that they have tapped my telephone (for more than 30 days), recorded my conversations, and disconnected the line when they are unable to listen. As I right this column... suffering readers... they have disconnected my *phone* [preceding word in English]; but, they really want to disconnect me. For example... I know that a close relative of a police officer (Edgardo Falcon) works at the National Telecommunications Institute (INTEL) and he is the person who provides the *target* telephone numbers and other services for the scanning operation. We already knew... just as we were informed, that Mr. Carlos Toty Bares' SPI found two small briefcases (containing a low-powered explosive) in two different places inside the Palace of Farce [to rhyme with the presidential Palacio de las Garzas]... where it is said the president passes frequently. The source commented: *the little presents were planted by a member of the Presidential Guard loyal to the antichrist... to give the president a good scare... and make his ticker stop.* [passage omitted]

Argentina

Menem Returns From Chile; Di Tella Comments

PY3008030092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1121 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Aug (TELAM)—Last night President Carlos Menem returned to our country from Chile where he, along with his counterpart Patricio Aylwin, signed a joint declaration on hopes for peace, understanding, and cooperation.

The head of state arrived at the metropolitan airport at 2045 aboard the presidential airplane Tango-02, and left the airport without making any comments.

For his part Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella stressed that the Argentine-Chilean relations are experiencing "an excellent moment" considering the agreements reached by the two countries which were expressed in the joint declaration signed by Presidents Menem and Aylwin.

Di Tella emphasized Chile's "support" for Argentine sovereignty claims over the Malvinas Islands and other southern archipelagos as well as their surroundings. He said: "We feel that Chile supports us more than ever in this and in other issues."

The foreign minister, who joined Menem in his tour of Uruguay and Chile, explained that the demarcation of the continental glaciers did not represent "a key issue" between the two governments, because it is an issue that is being reviewed by the congresses of the two countries.

Di Tella explained that if the legislators do not approve the agreement, "an arbitration will have to be sought," which for the Argentine Government involves "a high risk and great uncertainty." He emphasized therefore that "there is no better way of doing it" than through the congressional ratification of the agreement.

Vote on Chilean Border Treaty Again Postponed

PY2908034292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Aug 92 p 11

["Border Pact Put on Ice"—BUENOS AIRES HERALD headline]

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Unable to guarantee the passage of the Continental Glaciers border treaty by a key committee during President Carlos Menem's trip to Chile, members of the Lower House Justicialist bloc delayed voting on the accord for the second time to avoid handing him an outright defeat.

The Peronist legislators drew up their strategy on Wednesday [26 August] night after it became clear that the 24-hour postponement of consideration of the agreement signed by Menem and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin on August 2, 1991, to yesterday morning would not leave sufficient time to change the votes of the four dissident Justicialists on the foreign affairs committee who oppose it.

The move angered members of the Radical Party, who accused treaty proponents of carrying out "an arbitrary manoeuvre" and called on the executive branch to withdraw the pact from congressional debate and reopen "negotiations with Chile to reach definite solutions on just foundations."

In order to prevent the meetings of the foreign affairs and defence committees—the treaty was likely to have been approved by the latter—scheduled for 9:30 AM yesterday morning the Justicialist bloc called a meeting for 9 AM to consider the education bill. The move allowed the foreign relations committee chairman, Justicialist Carlos Ruckauf, to suspend the treaty poll as under congressional regulations committees are not allowed to meet at the same time as the Lower House.

Ruckauf said he had no plans to convene his committee in the foreseeable future but insisted to reporters, "There can be no talk of a defeat here because the Continental Glacier question is still an issue."

Ironically, the full house session convened 25 minutes late. Justicialist Miguel Angel Toma raised a question of parliamentary procedure and spoke for 10 minutes before the meeting was adjourned about the clashes that took place at the previous day's series of rallies outside Congress, giving Ruckauf sufficient time to cancel his meeting.

In addition to the main opposition party, the four rebel Justicialists spoke out yesterday too regarding the glacier agreement. While continuing to express their support for Menem's policies and stressing that they were not being pressured by their party, Francisco Toto (Santa Cruz), Jose Corchuelo Blasco (Chubut), Humberto Romero (Corrientes) and Graciela Camano (Buenos Aires) also reiterated during a press conference their intentions to oppose the deal.

Camano angrily denied that her husband, food industry union leader Luis Barrionuevo, had affected her vote, saying her stance was based on "in-depth analysis of the treaty."

Treaty supporters also offered their interpretations of yesterday's events.

Argentine Ambassador to Chile Antonio Cafiero told an Argentine news agency in Santiago that "the mountains aren't going to come down if the accord is not ratified." While admitting that the President erred in underestimating the public's reaction to what he saw as a technical matter the former governor of Buenos Aires cautioned that the treaty's defeat could be taken as an "unfriendly gesture" by the Chilean people.

Buenos Aires' current governor, Eduardo Duhalde, noted: "It's an embarrassment that after 170 years we still have 24 pending border issues with our Chilean

brothers." Duhalde, who earlier had stirred up a controversy by asking why Argentines want to squabble over "chunks of ice," said. "We must arrive at an accord, and if that's not possible there's arbitration."

National Deputy Octavio Frigerio (Movement for Integration and Development) also expressed warm support for the glacier pact, which he said "optimizes what's possible, and there's no ceding of our territory."

One party that would be affected by the treaty, however, has thus far shown little interest in it: the Chilean people. While surveys have shown that both political leaders and the public support greater integration with Argentina, few outside Chile's Armed Forces (which could use continued conflict to justify higher expenditures) have expressed an oppinion on the matter and only one of Santiago's daily newpapers gave President Menem's visit page-one coverage.

'Progress' Made in Probe of Buenos Aires Bombing

PY2908034792 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Aug 92 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Five months after the Israeli Embassy was levelled by a powerful bomb in downtown Buenos Aires the Supreme Court yesterday once again asked Interpol for the arrest of an alleged Pakistani terrorist spotted riding a motorcyle down Arroyo Street minutes before the brutal attack. The suspect, Mohamed Abbas Malik, was identified by a taxi driver who testified in the probe along with around 100 other witnesses. Malik is believed to have used a remote control device to trigger the explosion of a car bomb just outside the embassy on Arroyo and Suipacha streets. Supreme Court Secretary Alfredo Bisordi meanwhile reported "we've made much progress" in the probe into the bombing although "for the time being we cannot identify the authors" of the attack. Bisordi also confirmed that the blast, which killed 22 people and injured nearly 200, was caused by 50 kilos of explosives placed inside a car parked in front of the embassy.

* Implementation of New Judicial System Faulted

92SM0563A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Jul 92 p 14

[Report by Alberto Amato, Claudio Andrada, and Omar Lavieri]

[Text] In the government and the opposition, discreet but intensive political soundings are being taken these days in connection with the appointment of 650 new judges throughout the country. They will assume the bench as the new Code of Criminal Procedure takes effect in September. More than 1,700 candidates are vying for these posts, having gone through a screening process carried out by a commission made up of government officials and representatives of the legal profession, without the participation of the political opposition.

With the advent of the new Code of Criminal Procedure, which provides for oral and public trials, the appointment of 650 new judges to criminal courts throughout the country, including 125 in the Federal Capital alone, has unleashed an open, though hushed, dispute in the government, in the opposition, and in relations between the government and the opposition.

At the heart of the struggle over the new judicial appointments, although no one will admit this openly, is the issue of how independent or dependent the new judiciary will be in relation to the executive branch.

The government has promoted and implemented the most far-reaching reform ever attempted in the Argentine justice system, a weighty decision and a herculean task that originated in the previous government of Raul Alfonsin.

The new Code of Criminal Procedure, or Levene Code, as it is known in honor of its author, Supreme Court Chief Justice Ricardo Levene, will take effect on Saturday 5 September. By that time, Congress is supposed to have passed the enabling legislation for the new code (it is expected to do so on 29 July), which will allow for a total transformation of the criminal justice system, including the most innovative feature, oral and public trials.

New federal courts, an entity called the Court of Cassation, new pretrial investigation courts [juzgados de instruccion], and new prosecutor's and defender's offices, all require new officials. They particularly require new judges. A total of 2,500 candidates, almost all of them current members of the judiciary who aspire to better positions, have registered with the Justice Ministry.

Their applications were studied by the Judicial Advisory Commission, which consists of the assistant chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mariano Cavagna Martinez; the undersecretary general of the presidency, Carlos Corach (in charge of judicial affairs for the government); Secretary of Justice Osvaldo Castruccio; Attorney General Jorge Maiorano; and the heads of the Judges Association, the Public Bar Association of the Federal Capital, and the Argentine Federation of Bar Associations. The secretary of the commission is Alfredo Colombo, an aide to Justice Minister Leon Arslanian.

The commission narrowed down the initial list to 1,077 candidates for all kinds of courts (criminal, civil, and commercial-economic). The names were sent to President Carlos Menem, listed in order of merit according to a system devised by the data processing service under the direction of Secretary Colombo.

Malcontents

Some sectors of the Justicialist Party (PJ) are already complaining, however, about the influence the General Secretariat of the Presidency will have on the appointment of future magistrates: Corach was a member of the

Advisory Commission, and the office of Secretary General Eduardo Bauza will determine, in large measure, who will be proposed to the Senate for final approval as new judges.

The Radicals were thwarted in their attempt to have at least one of their men on the Advisory Commission, and they are constantly quoting a phrase attributed to a man in the Casa Rosada: "We want a justice system with a shirt and sash." In the Radical Civic Union (UCR), that phrase is interpreted to mean "with the Peronist shirt and the presidential sash."

The internal struggle in the government over the judicial appointments pitted the Corach-Bauza duet against Minister Arslanian. Thus, the meeting between the justice minister and UCR President Mario Losada, Senator-elect Fernando de la Rua, and Councilman Enrique Mathov, to provide assurances of independence in judicial appointments, is interpreted as a decision by Arslanian to emerge from his isolation and maintain his prestige among his colleagues.

The opposition feels that the "current degree of judicial dependence on the government is enough to pave the way for a greater one." This assertion is seconded in the courts, where at least one federal judge and one prosecutor told CLARIN that they are not optimistic about the future: "We know that our careers will be cut short because we tried to be independent." At any rate, the negative opinions expressed in the UCR only partly conceal the Radicals' own dispute over the major judicial overhaul.

The National Committee and the Capital Committee of the UCR were locked in a fierce battle over the Radicals' participation in the appointment of judges. The Capital Committee, which answers to De la Rua, contended that since most of the officials to be appointed will work in the Federal Capital, it is up to the people in that district to follow these appointments closely.

A justice commission of the UCR is discussing judicial matters with the government at the political bargaining table. This commission is made up of Angelozist Juan Octavio Gauna, a deputy and former attorney general; and Alfonsinists Enrique Paixao, former secretary of justice; Marcos Di Caprio, former president of the Commission on Political Trials of Deputies; and Antonio Berhongaray.

The De la Ruists must have felt shunted aside in the negotiations, because the dispute between the national and capital committees was finally resolved by instructing the Board of Directors of the National Committee to follow closely the government's decision on the future judges. The Buenos Aires Radicals cite the meeting with Arlanian as a victory, however, because Losada was accompanied by De la Rua and one of his closest associates, Concilman Mathov.

If the Peronists and Radicals agree on anything, it is that the Senate hearings on approval of the future magistrates will be public, not secret as the internal regulations of the upper chamber provide. The Radicals are pointing to the "unanimous agreement achieved at the political bargaining table by the Commission for the Strengthening of the Judiciary," an entity which they would like to bring back to full operation. Over the next few days, they will agitate for enforcement of that pact, in which representatives of 14 parties, including the PJ and the UCR, agreed to "urge the Senate to open its approval hearings to the public."

Well-known Names

The appointment of no less than 650 judges is of fundamental importance to the system. The enabling legislation for the new code and the complementary laws designed to reinforce and adjust the new judicial system are aimed at achieving quicker and more effective justice that is less secretive, with verdicts being handed down as expeditiously as possible while ensuring that none of the parties sacrifices one iota of their constitutional guarantees.

Among the 650 candidates for the criminal bench, there are federal judges, sentencing judges, and investigative judges [instruccion] who aspire to the Court of Cassation and the oral trial courts. Criminal prosecutors are trying to become judges, and court clerks are trying to be assigned to a prosecutor's office or to run a court. There are even former judges who want to get back on the bench.

Among them is Pedro Narvaiz, the federal judge who resigned and went into exile in 1982 after presiding over the trial of then-Admiral Emilio Massera. The son of another naval officer, Siro de Martini, also a former federal judge who stepped down in the early days of democracy to become defense attorney to then-Captain Alfredo Astiz, would like to resume the bench as well. And former Judge Lucio Somoza, cast aside by the Radical government of 1983-89, would also like to return to his post.

Of all the proposed judicial appointments submitted by the executive branch, those of the future Court of Cassation are the most urgent and of the highest priority. The court (see box) will be at the head of the entire criminal justice system and will be responsible for making the new judicial mechanism work.

It will have characteristics quite similar to those of the Supreme Court.

Arslanian's objective is to establish a "first class Court of Cassation" with the country's top specialists. Such is the fervor that the eventual members of this court are not on the list of 1,077 candidates being studied by the government and the Radicals, but will be summoned individually, as if they were Supreme Court justices.

Meanwhile, the finishing touches are being put on the new home of the federal criminal courts, the building that used to house the National Highway Department. D-day is 7 September, and society will not learn until then what the new justice system will entail.

[Box, p 15]

Almost a Supreme Court

The future Court of Cassation, a new entity in the national judicial sphere, will have organizational and administrative control over the entire new criminal justice system.

It will also be charged with hearing special appeals of oral trials, but only on constitutional issues, that is, when one of the parties alleges that some constitutional provision has been disregarded or overlooked during the trial.

Minister Arslanian and his aides swear up and down that they will do everything possible to make sure the members of the court are "the most brilliant experts on criminal law and procedure in the country," but they are keeping the names of the candidates under lock and key, as if they were a state secret. Although they will not say so, the minister and his aides fear that powerful interests will try to pressure them into straying from that objective. They are not entirely wrong. Such pressures do exist, and there is good reason for them: The future Court of Cassation will be almost as important as the powerful Supreme Court.

Among the names mentioned as future members of that important tribunal, all of them with outstanding records and reputations, are Carlos Kreus of Santa Fe, Daniel Carrera of Cordoba, and the well-known procedural specialist Francisco D'Albora of Buenos Aires.

The court will consist of 13 judges, divided into four departments with three judges each, plus a chief magistrate. It will be the first entity of the new judicial system to begin operating, since it has to establish all the rules and regulations that will govern the future justice system.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora's 'Rest' Not 'Harming' Administration

PY2808180692 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora's decision to remain in Tarija until 31 August is in no way harming the administrative apparatus.

The ministers are in permanent contact with the president, who is working in Tarija.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified minister] The president of the Republic has decided to remain in Tarija. It is his decision and I believe he has the right to rest, although he is also working there. He has decided to remain in Tarija for a few days for personal and maybe family reasons. His mother is in a delicate state of health.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, despite all that, the government seat is somewhat abandoned because [words indistinct] appointments had to be canceled in view of the president's absence.

[Unidentified minister] I want to clarify that. The government seat has by no means been abandoned. The vice president is acting president. Regarding the president's absence, however, two days of rest will not affect the country's governability. The ministers are complying with their duties and we are in permanent contact with him whenever we need a presidential decision. Unless the president's presence becomes necessary, the country will continue to function with the calm we have been enjoying. [end recording]

Senate Hears Ministers, Accepts Explanations

PY2808154292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Excerpts] The defense, interior, and foreign ministers successfully ended their interpellation in the Senate after explaining why they violated Article 59, Paragraph 15, of the Constitution which says: It is an attribution of the legislative branch to permit the transit of foreign troops through the national territory and to determine the length of their stay.

Defense Minister Alberto Saenz Klinsky admitted that the government did not fulfill this constitutional requirement. [passage omitted]

The Senate gathered to question Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno, Defense Minister Alberto Saenz Klinsky, and Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean. The session closed with a motion to make the ministers aware of the events that occurred. This was agreed by 14 votes to nine. The Senate questioned the ministers for their unconstitutional decision to permit U.S. troops to stay in Santa Ana de Yacuma, in Beni Department.

The session ended by merely calling their attention to the required steps that must be taken before allowing troops into the country and dismissed the motion of censure that was expected for violating the Constitution. [passage omitted]

This is what Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean said about the incident:

[Begin recording] [MacLean] The important point is that the government, through its ministers, has made it absolutely clear that it does not have any desire or intention to dispute the Constitution. There is no reason why we could not consult or get Congressional approval for all movement of Bolivian troops outside the country or foreign troops inside the country.

[Unidentified reporter] Will this motion to make them aware force a change in government policies besides what has already been done to redirect our bilateral relations with the United States?

[MacLean] We have to make clear that the government changed its policies before the Senate resolution. The senators, of course, appreciate the situation. It is important that the Senate accepts our explanation and welcomes the change in policies that break with past practices and

permit the beginning of a new stage. Regarding the redirecting of our relations with the United States, we must say that the process is complex, important, and difficult. But we have already seen concrete results. [end recording]

The session to interpellate the interior, defense, and foreign ministers ended around 2330.

Brazil

Collor Responds to 'Irresponsible Charges'

PY3108003392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2301 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Address to the nation by Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, from his desk at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia on 29 August—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: During the entire period of time the CPI [Congressional Investigation Committee] was working, I with difficulty remained silent about the subjects that were analyzed there. You can all imagine my suffering during this stage, which I bore thanks to my absolute faith in God. It is true that my position was many times questioned by my friends, counselors, and aides, who considered that it would be better if I immediately reacted to each of the accusations that were made. I remained firm in my determination to maintain myself unaffected, despite the slanders, defamations, and injustices committed against me.

I persisted in this line of behavior so that everyone could be sure that at no moment during the investigations did I issue orders to hinder or frustrate the work that was carried on inside and outside the CPI.

As the Bible states: There is a time to remain silent, and a time to speak. I decided to speak today because I thought it was an appropriate moment to come before the nation with an open heart, to analyze the political process and to give all the necessary explanations. I will answer what I sincerely think are deep injustices and prejudgments against clear electoral interests—which are absolutely inadmissible in the face of events that could decidedly compromise the destiny of the country.

Let us go to the facts. In the first place, we must clearly establish that in no place in the CPI report is it asserted that the financial operations to pay the expenses of my election campaign were illegal, nonexistent, or disrespectful of any regulatory norm—in response to eventual accusations. Despite this, through all means and manners, the public received false, slanderous, and totally inconsistent versions, aimed at confusing it and placing the conduct of the president in doubt.

Not satisfied with this unsuccessful attack, my opponents took aim at minor issues. The first of them: I was federal deputy before being governor and president of the Republic, and I needed to sell part of my patrimony. I lived in Maceio in a property that consisted of the top floor of a building and an apartment right underneath. During the construction of the building I ordered a remodeling, to adapt them to my needs. After some years I decided to sell the top floor and remain only with the apartment underneath. During the deal, made by Mr. Paulo Cesar Farias, it had been agreed that I would receive the remaining apartment, remodeled in keeping with the new situation, and the dealer would be responsible for the administration of the works and the payment of the expenses. By the way, the remodeling took a long time. It was a long time before I had the apartment finished.

Therefore, as you see, a simple operation of selling and remodeling an apartment turned, in the hands of the opposition, into an accusation in the CPI.

A second matter—my residence.

The president's official residences are Alvorada Palace and the Granja do Torto. As the president is entitled to do, I could have been residing in one of these residences, with all expenses paid. However, because I have preached austerity in public expenses, I found it more appropriate to continue residing in my family's residence [Casa da Dinda] and paying for my personal expenses.

After I made this decision I was informed that the Casa da Dinda lacked the necessary security installations, and that it was necessary to build accommodations. I could have maintained that it was up to the government to cover the cost of the infrastructure of the president's residence, as is established in the law. But I thought I would be contradicting myself had I done so. If I had chosen not to live at Alvorada Palace or at the Granja do Torto, so as not to increase the burden of public expenses, I could not encourage public spending on my property to ensure my own safety.

In view of this, and at my own expense, I had built suitable housing for those in my service. With the leveling and the work of trucks involved in this construction, part of the residence's gardens were destroyed. I also had to repair the areas that were damaged.

My adversaries in the CPI used this fact to try to deceive the people, alleging that millions of dollars were spent on this work. But the facts prove otherwise, and these figures had to be categorically denied by those who had made these irresponsible charges. Unfortunately, the media granted more space to the false charges than to the truth.

My house is well known to all Brazilians. It is well known that I open it on weekends to popular guests and friends. The house and the gardens are characteristic of any good residence in Brasilia.

Another matter is that regarding the car.

Everyone knows that I am used to exercising on Sundays. I drive my own car to a eucalyptus forest near my house. On one of those Sundays I suffered an accident. My car

was hit. You must remember about this incident, which was vastly publicized. I had it fixed, but the car was never the same.

I therefore requested my secretary to sell the Veraneio [station wagon model] and to buy with the money obtained from the transaction a less expensive, simpler, and cheaper Fiat. This is what was done.

If in the purchase of another car someone issued a check under a false identity—a so-called ghost check—I will find this out.

I have ordered the Federal Police to open investigations to establish the responsibility of this and of all other so-called ghost checks.

There are in Brazil millions of ghost accounts in dozens of banks, as was discovered at the heart of the investigations. I have instructed the Central Bank to adopt immediate measures to end this practice. I want those account holders who used false identities and the banks that accepted these accounts to be severely punished. Only thus, by combating this at its origin, will we end this crime.

Today anyone can fall victim to this irregularity, because no one is able to establish the illegal nature of a check.

I assure the entire country that I will do everything in my power so that none of those found guilty will go unpunished, and those who have evaded taxes can be certain that they will have to return everything in accordance with the punishments established by the law.

Regarding the issue that my secretary had advance information about the freezing of new cruzados—which, as I had promised, have been entirely returned with adjusted interest rates to account holders—I would like to remind you, ladies and gentlemen, of the following.

After the economic program was announced, an opposition senator charged that some people had reportedly benefited from advance information in this regard. This happened two years ago or more. At that time I immediately ordered the Central Bank to supply all the information that had been requested by the legislator.

You, ladies and gentlemen, will certainly remember the images, which have been widely circulated by the press and by television, of the heaps of bank extracts which were handed to the senator. Very well, it has been concluded that those charges were groundless. Even people who are estranged from the government have admitted that never before in this country had an economic program been decreed without information leaking, without someone benefiting from the information. In the specific case of my secretary, it has been said that she withdrew money from her account on 13 March, two days before the new cruzados were frozen. This is a lie. To the contrary, she deposited money in her account on that exact day. Her account was also frozen. The charge was ill-intentioned and had spurious objectives. The media has already received extracts of her account and a Central Bank certificate that proves unequivocally that there was no withdrawal. This was one more slander by my opponents, similar to dozens of others that have been disseminated in the political comedy created by the CPI. My secretary had her account blocked not only in one bank, but also in three other banks, just like millions of other Brazilians. These have been the charges; here are the answers. In addition to these answers, I will answer, in a conclusive, definitive, and absolute manner, any other charge that may be leveled against me.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have always worked in favor of truth and clarity. The investigation conducted by the CPI has only been possible because at the very beginning of my term in office I adopted a series of measures, all of them profoundly moralizing. I made an end to bearer bonds and drastically limited the possibilities of writing bearer checks. This is what made it possible to follow up the checks and to identify, through the endorser's signature, the names of those who received them. Without these measures—which, as I have said, were adopted at the beginning of my administration, and a long time before the CPI work began—the CPI would not have been able to conduct the investigation or have reached the conclusions it did. Without these measures and numerous others that were adopted by me to fight fraud, prevent deviations, and reduce tax evasion, we would not have had secure ways of identifying responsibilities and punishing guilty people. In face of that, I will ask: Could the president, who proposed the stricter legislation against corruption crimes, compromise or even connive in the deeds being attributed to him?

It must also be remembered that two years ago, clearly and emphatically, I stated that the fact of being a relative, an acquaintance, or a friend of the president did not entitle people to act on his behalf. The presidential system in force in Brazil concentrates immense and hard decisions in the hands of the president of the Republic. Each action, each decision affects interests, wishes, and ambitions. This umbrella of responsibilities naturally prevents the head of the government from dealing with the details of his daily family life.

I am reviewing the measures that I have adopted to reassert my personal commitment and that of my administration with openness and morality in the administration of public assets. I have been doing my best to do the right thing, and will continue to do so. Often, however, it is impossible to be always right. Naturally, I have made mistakes, but who doesn't? I have been wrong to overlook the effect of temptations that move profiteers. I have made the mistake of placing too much confidence in people who afterwards showed that they did not deserve the confidence I had bestowed upon them. What I can assert, however, is that truthful to my conscience [his voice breaks] the mistakes I have made have never been inspired by malice or ill intentions.

One important question must now be asked: What forces have collaborated to try to involve, in such an obstinate way, the president of the Republic in these regrettable

episodes? The answer is: the contravened interests, the frustrated ambitions, and the old-fashioned sector's awareness that the modernization program proposed by my administration, which has been approved by the people in the last presidential elections, will succeed.

Ladies and gentlemen, despite the exhaustive clarifications made by my allies during all the stages of the CPI, demonstrating that there was no participation, connivance, tolerance, or responsibility on my behalf; and despite the known determination with which I decided to face any accusation; it has been announced that my opponents will suggest the impeachment of the president of the Republic. This is amazing. They are even speaking of changing consecrated legal procedures, that is, of changing the rules of the game.

With this objective, lists of congressmen's signatures—some of whom were ill-advised—are circulating. These congressmen are agreeing to the approval of casuistic measures that would violate basic legal foundations. And what is the real objective of my opponents? They are trying, ladies and gentlemen, they are trying to abrogate in 10 days the mandate of the president of the Republic, which was legitimized by the people's vote.

My opponents are trying to abrogate in 10 days the mandate of the president of the Republic, when 558 were not enough for them to approve the law on modernization of the ports. My opponents are trying to abrogate in 10 days the mandate of the president of the Republic, when 487 days were not enough for them to approve the industrial property law. My opponents are trying to abrogate in 10 days the mandate of the president of the Republic, when 306 were not enough for them to approve the law regulating the National Legal Adviser's Office. Ladies and gentlemen, my opponents are trying to abrogate in 10 days the mandate of the president of the Republic, when 330 days have gone by without their having appropriately studied such relevant subjects for the future of the country, known as the big amendment [emendao].

I cannot—I do not want—to believe that they forgot everything, and that they want to revive summary trials, inquisitional processes, or courts of exception [tribunais de excecao]. It is wrong to believe that I have an excessive fondness for power. Such a feeling is felt only by those who are demonstrating that they want to trample on the democratic process and the consolidation of institutions.

I do have dreams, ideals, and programs for our country, and I am fond of them, with the most legitimate and deep determination. I want to leave my successor a modern, just, and plural society, based on free initiative and on equal opportunities. Those who think they will abrogate the mandate of the president of the Republic are wrong. I trust my allies because I know the moral and public essence of those who are by my side. I know they will not be intimidated by organized demonstrations, by those who, thinking they are serving the country, are not serving it. Men of good sense who, free of emotions, analyze the facts, and the real patriots, will be by my side. We will win; we will win through votes. The Brazilian people will observe that their representatives will endure the pressures, and they will decide exclusively according to their consciences.

I will only consider my mission as finished, I will only consider my government program as achieved, once these bills are approved, because they legate to the future generations a country structurally different from that which I received, a country capable of being by the side of the modern countries of the world. Our political generation has already paid an excessively high price for the 1961 resignation [of President Janio Quadros].

For all this, and for my faith in a just and modern Brazil, I ask God to give me health and strength. I ask God to give me patience, humility, and perseverance to defeat this storm, and to learn from it lessons that will help us build the Brazil of our dreams. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you and good evening.

'Text' of Lawyer's Impeachment Request

PY2908181292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Aug 92 p 4

["Full text" of the "exclusive" draft of impeachment request for President Fernando Collor, prepared by lawyers Fabio Konder Comparato and Evandro Lins e Silva, experts on commercial and criminal law respectively, and reviewed by lawyers Raymundo Faoro and Clovis Ramalhete for the Brazilian Attorneys Association, OAB, delivered for signature to Barbosa Lima Sobrinho, president of the Brazilian Press Association, ABI, on 27 August in Rio de Janeiro. The final version of this document, which will include several additions, will be delivered to the president of the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia on 1 September; words in italics published in Latin]

The following is the full text that will serve as the basis for the impeachment request:

Dear President of the Chamber of Deputies:
"It is in this court where rulers who abuse power are judged; not according to the minor details of criminal law, but according to the long and solid principles of morality." Edmund Burke

Alexandre Barbosa Lima Sobrinho and [ABI President] Marcelo Lavener Machado, journalist and lawyer, respectively, with the adjoining proof of their voting acquittance, of Brazilian citizens, residing in (...), have come, founded on Articles 85, V and 86 of the Constitution, and on Articles 9, Paragraph 7 and 14 of Law No. 1079 of 10 April 1950, to inform against the president of the Republic, Fernando Collor de Mello, as hereby explained:

1. The introductory quotation of this request contains a warning made by the great British parliamentarian when

requesting the impeachment of colonial governor Warren Hastings in the House of Commons in 1787, and it is still valid to explain the reason and the sense of the processes for malfeasance in office.

An impeachment is not a common sentence against common criminals. It is the extreme sanction for those who have turned their political power into a fountain of personal advantages to the detriment of the whole community. For this reason, given the eminent position of the person accused, and given the exceptional seriousness of the crime he is accused of, the roots of the impeachment process can be found on the great political ethics requirements, under the light of which the norms of positive law must be interpreted.

In democratic government systems the great judge of the rulers are the people themselves and the people's ethical conscience. The elected ruler which uses power for his own interest and for that of his friends and relatives, not only commits actions of personal corruption or of embezzlement or of malfeasance in office: More than that, he scorns and disparages the popular sovereignty.

It is for this reason that the best Western political tradition attributes juridical power to try one who is accused with malfeasance precisely to the institution that represents the people. Representing the people in impeachment processes means to interpret and express the ethical feeling of society in the face of the acts of abuse or treason to the people's trust without being distracted by misguiding technicalities. Within this line of thought, the maximum malfeasance that may be committed by the people's representatives in malfeasance trials consists in behaving under the pressure of spurious influences to satisfy personal or party interests. [sentence as published]

In all, the president of the Federative Republic of Brazil will be judged before the Brazilian people, represented by their deputies and senators, based on the long and solid principles of political morality.

2. The Federal Constitution, quoting a disposition established in our first republican charter, considers that the president of the Republic commits a crime of malfeasance when he commits actions against "probity in administering" (Article 85, V). Law No. 1079 of 10 April 1950, which defines the crimes mentioned in the Constitution, considers that the president of the Republic commits a crime of malfeasance when, among other facts, he "proceeds in a manner incompatible with the dignity, honor, and decorum of his post" (Article 9, 7).

To speak plainly, this is a specific crime in the field of political criminality which expresses and includes all the greater ethical deviations which a ruler may incur.

The legal description of this crime currently is much more broad than in the past. Decree No. 30 of 1892, which was the first republican law about crimes of malfeasance, was very limited. It considered as malfeasance in office the cases when the president "compromised the honor and dignity of his post by demonstrating scandalous incontinence in public, or by incurring in the vice of prohibited games, or by repeatedly appearing in a drunken state, or by behaving with widely known ineptitude or regular indolence when exercising his functions." (Article 48)

Today the law does not restrict the president's malfeasance in office to the cases stated in the 1892 decree, but above everything, it has introduced in the definition of the crime the main idea of decorum.

The word is a concept we inherited from the Romans. *Decus* [honor], shares the same root of the verb *decere* which has two meanings: a neutral meaning of convenient and a moral meaning of decency.

The Roman word decorum has always expressed an idea of order and moderation or measure. "By bringing certain order and measure into the facts of life," Cicero states, "we are preserving honesty and decorum." (De Officiis, I, 17) Such order and measure in one's personal life, he continues, are expressed through the modesty (*verecundia*) (sense of shame), moderation (stated in the 1892 decree), humility, control of one's passions, and the pondering of all things. Decorum cannot be separated from honesty, "because what is decent and honest is *vice versa*" (idem I 93).

Specifically regarding the ruler or head of the political power (*magistratus*) (magistrate), Cicero warns it is his own prerogative "to understand that he generates the state and that it is therefore his duty to defend the dignity and decorum of his post, to respect the laws, to respect the rights, remembering that all this was entrusted to him with the people's trust (*ea fide suae comissa*)." (idem I, 124)

3. Therefore, every public position entices its dignity which the Romans called honor; and this dignity must be respected and defended even from their own holders.

The lack of honesty and decorum in the exercise of a public post offends not only the administrative community, but its perverse effects go far beyond. The lack of honesty and decorum demoralizes the image of the state in the eyes of the people. It must not be forgotten that the word "decoration" comes from *decorum*. When the state loses its respectability, its moral ornate, the whole functioning of the political apparatus collapses.

For no other reason are crimes against the honor of the president of the Republic or against any other public official exercising his post, strictly punished (Penal Code Article 141). What is being protected is not only the personal honor of the political agent or public servant: It is the dignity of the post he holds.

It has thus been verified that from 15 March 1990 until June 1992 the president of the Republic personally, as well as some of his relatives—his current wife, his former

wife, and his mother—received large amounts of money, besides other goods, from a third party without the least legal justification for such transfers of money. It is not known whether it was payment of debts, of capital revenues, of profit shares from a partnership, or pure and simple donations. These transferences of money and goods were made repeatedly, either through deposits in the bank account of the president's private secretary, or through direct payments to companies that sold decorations for the president's private residence or that worked in his home or in any of his other properties or housing.

Such facts by themselves constitute a wrongful and incompatible situation with the dignity of the position of the president of the Republic. As the chief of state and chief of government, he must be maintained by the nation through public resources. He is not allowed to exercise any other professional activity after his installation on account of the honor and decorum of his position. It is proper that the money or goods he receives from third parties while exercising his mandate have a clearly defined purpose in order to avoid accusations of improperly receiving immoral or illegal advantages.

As if this were not enough, which by itself demonstrates a dishonorable conduct, all those resources which were added to the patrimony of the president of the Republic and his close relatives, came from an economic organization controlled by an individual who currently is involved in a police inquiry that is investigating facts which envisage influence peddling, tax evasion, corruption, and forged documents, among other crimes. The individual in question was the treasurer of the president's election campaign and he visited his private home after his installation.

It also has been verified that the banking circuit through which those resources, which benefited the president and his close relatives, circulated through several bank accounts held by fictitious people, thus configuring a vast network of fraud and forgeries. According to the investigations, two close presidential aides, which held the public posts of presidential secretary and spokesman respectively, also received money in their bank accounts through checks issued by fictitious individuals, connected with the mentioned economic organization.

To carry things to the last extreme of indignity, it must be pointed out that the investigation of all these facts was denied publicly by the president of the Republic through a national television and radio broadcast, during which he said that he and he alone paid for the expenses of his private home in Brasilia.

5. There are some personal charges made against the accused individual which are truly shocking and dismaying. The country has not yet recovered from the fright caused by his own brother—Pedro Collor de Mello—which was registered in the report of the Congressional Investigation Committee [CPI], Chapter 1, which states:

"Paulo Cesar Cavalcante Farias allegedly had stated that he maintained an informal partnership with the president of the Republic to whom he transferred 70 percent of the profits. This is a relevant detail because, first, if such a partnership exists the investigation of the activities of Paulo Cesar Farias implies investigating his partner, for which effect this CPI has no jurisdictional power; second, because subsequent investigations, even without investigating the president, brought up evidence that such a partnership existed, proving that Paulo Cesar Farias financed, even through ghost bank accounts, the personal expenses of the president of the Republic. Pedro allegedly was informed of such an informal partnership by mid-1991."

Such a demoralizing accusation against a ruler was unheard of. The mere mention of Paulo Cesar Cavalcante Farias became a symbol of administrative corruption, of public coffers-sacking *coryphaeus*, of influence peddling, and of exploiting the public treasury.

6. This whole set of facts, investigated not only by Congress but also by the Federal Police, demonstrates a behavior incompatible with the honor, dignity, and decorum of the high position of the president of the Republic. The aforementioned characteristics which demonstrate a lack of decorum, disorder and lack of moderation of one's life, partnership with dishonest individuals, and the acceptance of improper advantages, represent treason and the abuse of the public's trust, as pointed out by Cicero regarding the public magistrates and reiterated by Alexander Hamilton—one of the founding fathers of the U.S. federation—justifying a presidential impeachment. (The Federalist, No. 65).

As a result of all this, the president of the Republic—as is clearly perceived, and with more intensity each day—lost all moral authority to govern the nation or to represent it abroad. The people's disrespect of the president already is threatening to spread, dangerously, to his high position and all other republican institutions. His separation from the presidency, therfore, is inevitable and urgent, as a means for the govenment political and administrative cleansing, strictly within constitutional boundaries.

Besides the crime of responsibility, various other common crimes involving the president were also committed.

The large volume of evidence uncovered by the CPI, and the report's exhaustive and detailed conclusions show the existence of crimes committed by a public servant against the administration: passive corruption, prevarication, trafficking in influence (CP [Penal Code] Articles 317, 319, and 321); crimes committed by a private individual against the administration: exploitation of position and active corruption in crimes against public peace; unlawful association (CP Article 288); crimes against public faith: forgery of documents, lying in official documents, and false identity (CP Articles 297 to 299 and 307); crimes of tax evasion (Law 4729 of 14 July 1965); crimes against the national financial system (Law

7492 of 16 June 1986); and crimes against the taxing order (Law 8137 of 27 December 1990).

Once charges are admitted, copies of the documents proving the involvement of the president in common crimes must be issued to the Supreme Court for the corresponding trial.

Other facts cited by the CPI make the president incompatible with the highest office in the nation. The CPI report gives a detailed description of those facts, summarizing them in its final conclusion.

The honorable deputies, invested as judges and convinced of the historic importance of the trial in which they will be involved, will take inspiration from a lesson cited by Rui Barbosa [Brazilian Republic founder and writer] when invoking the history of a 17th century preacher, Father Manuel Bernardes:

"A person in the capacity of a judge, or a minister, is asked by God not to consider the reasons of the powerful prince or the unprotected poor, but only the reasons of his fellow man. This virtue was well practiced by Vandals King Canuto when ordering the execution of a gang of road bandits. When one of them claimed to be a king's relative, Canuto said: If you can prove that you are our relative it will be fair to give you the hardest blow."

7. Because of all these reasons, we issue this document to report on the president of the Republic, Fernando Collor de Mello, for the crimes of responsibility indicated in Article 85, V, of the Constitution (administrative untrustworthyness) as specified in Article 9, item 7, of Law 1079 of 10 April 1950.

The consignees indicate that CPI documents, as well as testimonies and documents at the investigation opened by the Federal Police in Brasilia where the president is sindicated as a defendant, are taken as evidence.

Judge Orders First Lady To Return Funds

PY3008220392 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Aug 92 p 8

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Judge Novely Vilanova da Silva Reis, of the Seventh Court of Justice of the Federal District, on 28 August ordered First Lady Rosane Collor, her adviser Eunicia Guimaraes, and Public Administration Director General Sergio Mauricio da Costa Palazzo to return 70 million cruzeiros to the public coffers. The three were charged with bilking federal assets and violating the public ethics principles.

The 70 million cruzeiros is the cost at current prices of a party Mrs. Collor paid for with public funds. On 5 July 1991 Mrs. Collor—who was then Brasilian Welfare Legion president—hosted a lunch at Alvorada Palace to celebrate her friend and adviser Eunicia's birthday. [passage omitted]

Acioli, Fonseca Charged in PC Inquest

PY2808192092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The Federal Police have just confirmed that charges are being pressed against President Fernando Collor's private secretary Ana Acioli in the inquest into Paulo Cesar Farias' activities, adding that charges are also being pressed against Jose Maria Fonseca, the owner of the From Brazil Company, which is involved in irregularities at the Central Medical Supplies Exchange.

On 31 August, the inquests may be conducted separately. The part that refers to the PC scheme will be sent to a federal judge, and the other, which refers to the president of the Republic, will be sent to the attorney general.

Guimaraes Urges Collor To Go; Soares Says Stay

PY2808033392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] There is a conflict of forces: PFL [Liberal Front Party] Senator Odacir Soares says that President Fernando Collor will remain in his post until the last day of his mandate, while PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] Deputy Guimaraes has requested Collor to accept the consequences of impeachment:

[Begin Guimaraes recording] He wears the presidential sash, he is in Planalto Palace as president, but he is no longer the president. The ministers held a meeting to state that the responsibility for governing is theirs. Therefore, I understand the following: The president must, I understand, listen to this appeal to leave through the front door. If he does not, as a tenant who is wrongly staying in Planalto Palace he might—as I am sure will happen as a result of the impeachment consequences—be thrown out. [end recording]

[Begin Soares recording] President Collor was elected in 1989, he entered through the front door of Planalto Palace, and he will leave through the front door as soon as he finishes his legal mandate and whomever is elected in 1994 is sworn in. [end recording]

Franco Plans Government 'Behind the Scenes'

PY2808223492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1839 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By correspondent Rafael Candanedo]

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Aug (EFE)—Several opposition and government supporting groups, who are in favor of requesting President Fernando Collor's impeachment, are fighting each other to participate in the government being planned by Vice President Itamar Franco behind the scenes, while Congress has still not decided Collor's fate.

In view of Collor's possible impeachment or resignation, Franco has been holding rapid negotiations with the political parties that can support him, and in a strategy seeking to

obtain allies, he is promising to govern through "an informal parliamentarian system of government."

This offer, which was inspired by former Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro, leader of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party, PSDB, favors most of the groups represented at Congress, most of them supporters of the parliamentarian system of government.

In a referendum scheduled for 21 April 1993, approximately 90 million Brazilians will decide whether to ratify the presidential system or replace it by parliamentarism—the French or Portuguese model—which is an option that is gaining support because of the current critical political situation.

The Brazilian Democratic Movement Party [PMDB], the main opposition party with major representation in Congress, seeks to exert control on Franco, and to displace the aspirations of the PSDB and of the Liberal Front Party [PFL] rebel faction.

The PFL, headed by Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, is the only party that backs Collor. In recent days, however, it has shown a willingness to withdraw its support for the government. This decision, still subject to an agreement, will leave Collor without the one-third (168) of the votes that are needed at the Chamber of Deputies to stop the impeachment, which the PMDB is planning to vote on before the 3 October municipal elections.

The remaining six parties that formally make up the government's coalition lack the required force. Besides, their congressional blocs are divided by those who still support Collor and those who want him to resign.

The Democratic Workers' Party [PDT], led by Rio Governor Leonel Brizola, has stated that it does not seek to take part in the government, but disagrees with PMDB President Orestes Quercia's increasing influence over Franco.

Brizola, 70, seeks to have Quercia and Collor investigated for their alleged involvement in corruption, and especially in the privatization of VASP [Sao Paulo Airline]. Brizola and Quercia are presidential hopefuls for the elections slated for 1994.

The newspaper CORREIO BRAZILIENSE has reported that Senator and Lawyer Mauricio Correa, who is also a PDT member and vice president of the Congressional Investigating Committee hearing the case of corruption in the government, could be a member of this possible ministerial cabinet of his own free will.

PFL leader Magalhaes, the "strong man" of Collor's administration, was aware of the negotiations. He recently met in Brasilia with Itamar to discuss his designation as a member of the possible cabinet.

The PFL rank-and-file is pressuring Magalhaes and other leaders to discontinue their support of Collor because it fears an electoral failure in October, as the majority of voters advocate impeachment.

The members of the PFL leadership face a controversy: They do not want to join Itamar's allies, and they cannot accept becoming an opposition party for the first time.

The Workers' Party [PT] played a major role in revealing the charges against Collor, and now displays a conciliatory attitude toward its occasional fellow party members in the movement "who support the impeachment." The PT wants the investigations, which may involve Quercia and Magalhaes, to continue.

Receives 'Suggestions' on Program

PY3008212792 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Aug 92 p 7

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Vice President Itamar Franco yesterday said that he hopes President Fernando Collor will continue in his post. Itamar Franco received from the General Federation of Workers [CGT] suggestions for his government program should he assume the presidency, but he declined to make a statement on the proposals and on the political crisis.

Brazil has a president of the Republic, which is Fernando Collor de Mello, and we hope he will remain president of Brazil. I am only the vice president, Itamar Franco said.

The proposals presented to the vice president by CGT President Antonio Neto include the immediate cancellation of the denationalization program and the recovery of control of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Steel Mills]. The privatization program is one of the main objectives of the Collor government, but the privatization of Usiminas has displeased Itamar Franco.

The CGT suggests the release of resources for civilian construction, emergency settlement for rural workers, and the reduction of interest rates and the tax burden. [passage omitted]

Bornhausen May Resign If Collor Rejects Advice

PY3108025192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 30 Aug (EFE)—It was reported today in Brasilia that Secretary of Government Jorge Bornhausen, President Fernando Collor's political coordinator, may leave his post tomorrow, 31 August, because the president did not accept his advice to negotiate his resignation with Congress.

Bornhausen's spokesman Antonio Martins said this afternoon that Bornhausen wanted Collor to offer his voluntary resigation from the presidency in the address to the nation he delivered tonight if legislators approved the economic reform bill before 30 September.

According to Martins, Collor had in principle favorably accepted Bornhausen's proposal, but in his speech to the

nation Collor reasserted that he will not yield to opposition pressures to leave power.

Martins added that because the president did not accept his idea, Bornhausen does not feel up to continuing as the government's political coordinator. In view of this Martins admitted that Bornhausen may be leaving his post along with his closest advisors. [passage omitted]

In so doing, Bornhausen will be adhering to the already announced resignation of the "ethical" ministers: Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira; Foreign Minister Celso Lafer; Justice Minister Celio Borja; Health Minister Adib Jatene; and Science and Technology Secretary Helio Jaguaribe and Culture Secretary Sergio Ruanet, who have already announced their resignations. [passage omitted]

Resignations 'En Masse' Possible

PY3008033292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Aug 92 p 8

[By Marta Salomon and Dora Kramer]

[Text] Brasilia—An en masse resignation by the cabinet might be presented to President Fernando Collor over the next few days, as the last card to convince him that he no longer possesses the political conditions with which to govern. With their threat of an en masse resignation the ministers will reportedly attempt to force the president to resign before a vote on impeachment.

The other possibility would be to reach a sort of agreement to grant him amnesty, thereby avoiding punishment and the charges of passive corruption, embezzlement, and influence peddling as indicated by the report. The request is being secretly arranged, with the participation of the group headed by Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes.

The military ministers are reportedly also supporting this pressure. They were even willing to act separately from the cabinet, sending a messenger to President Collor with a request for resignation. According to an official who has access to all the trends, the argument by the military would be that the president, in his capacity as Armed Forces commander in chief, no longer has what is called in state speech "the political power base with which to perform his role as commander." In this case the invitation to resign could not be described as a "coup," but would be legally classified under what the politicians call "resignation by voluntary coaction."

During their talks on 26, 27, and 28 August the ministers and leaders already decided that even if Collor wins the impeachment battle, and obtains the number of votes required in Congress to remain in his post, he will remain alone. No one is willing to support a politically nonexistent government, and especially one which is morally suspect.

In Brasilia this week the group that is still formally supporting Collor held various assessment meetings, and concluded that in face of the evidence of involvement in Paulo Cesar Farias' deals, and of politicians' and society's reactions, the matter is settled.

Yesterday morning a minister of state said: "We are in the final stage. We only have to find a way to make the president realize that there no longer exists any solution." A PFL [Liberal Front Party] leadership member stressed: "The government's situation is untenable; if he (Collor) had a measure of discernment, he would already have resigned."

During the past week two ministers tried to talk to Collor about his resignation. They failed. The president prefers to believe that nothing exists to his discredit, and neither are there sufficient votes to approve the request for impeachment. A politician who has regular access to Collor's office noted: "He is denying reality." Another member of the political leadership concurred: "His conduct does not help."

The ministers' position—announced on 25 August—of actually assuming government without any expression of specific solidarity with the president had been arranged since last week, and had already been designed to show the extent of the crisis to the president. According to one of the signatories of the communique, Collor did not grasp the message. In the assessment of one of the designers of the strategy, "after that, the situation only deteriorated."

Foreign Credibility Viewed

PY3008012092 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Aug 92 Section 1 p 9

[By Ivanir Jose Bortot and Marcia Marques]

[Excerpts] During a news conference with foreign correspondents, Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira yesterday said that all ministers should surrender their posts, regardless of whether an impeachment process against the president is or is not opened.

If an impeachment process is opened, Marcilio speculated, Vice President Itamar Franco will have to make up his cabinet—if he assumes power. If the Chamber of Deputies rejects the request for impeachment, President Fernando Collor will have to rearrange his political base.

The economy minister added that the opening of an impeachment process should not take longer than three weeks. The minister said: "The government and the opposition are not at all interested in a long impeachment process. It would not bring anything good for the country."

The minister said that negotiations with the IMF to establish targets for the second half of this year depend on the budget figures, which will be sent to Congress on 31 August. Marques Moreira said: "I believe the IMF acknowledges the huge efforts in monetary and fiscal constraint that the country has been practicing, under adverse conditions."

Concerning our country's credibility for foreign investors, the economy minister said that no serious problems had been experienced in this area. He said there was a small decline in the entry of investments, but "the registry of foreign capital entries in August did not stop due to the crisis." [passage omitted]

Parties in Congress Lean Toward Impeachment

PY2908132392 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Aug 92 Section 1 p 6

[Article by Tales Faria and Lucio Vaz]

[Text] Congressional leaders of political parties supporting the government on 26 August concluded that there already is a two-thirds (336 votes) majority to support the impeachment of President Fernando Collor. This evaluation was made during a meeting of leaders from the PTB [Brazilian Workers' Party], PDC [Christian Democratic Party], PL [Liberal Party], and PTR [Workers Renewal Party].

The leaders of the four parties have decided to free their blocs to decide on the impeachment vote, as the PDC did on 25 August. A poll conducted by FOLHA among the deputies reveals that 300 deputies support impeachment, 95 are against, and 165 are undecided.

Feeling isolated, President Collor himself on 25 August asked the deputies to vote against the impeachment. He fears that pro-government parties in the next few days may decide to support the call for impeachment. During a meeting, the PDC and the PL decided to allow their blocs to decide on the vote on their own and to "recommend" that the deputies vote for impeachment.

Sao Paulo Deputy Robson Tuma from the PL bloc is the only one who remains undecided; three other deputies decided to vote against the impeachment and the remaining 15 support it.

The PTR decided to free its bloc to vote during a meeting with Federal District Governor Joaquim Roriz and Rondonia Governor Osvaldo Piana at Roriz' official residence. Benedito Domingos, PTR Federal District deputy, has stated that "70 percent of the PTR bloc supports the impeachment."

The PDC decided unanimously to support the report involving the president of the Republic with PC [Paulo Cesar] Farias, even after the meeting held on 26 August between Jonival Lucas, the PDC Bahia deputy, and President Collor at Planalto Palace.

PTB leader Nelson Marquezelli said on 26 August at noon that just five PTB deputies advocate the impeachment. After being pressured by the PTB bloc, Marquezelli decided to hold a meeting where all deputies were allowed to vote in keeping with their conscience. Late in the afternoon, Marquezelli admitted that "seven or eight" PTB deputies supported the impeachment.

The position adopted by the PTB bloc in the Senate on the previous night prompted the deputies to change their attitude. The seven senators decided to endorse the vote of Walmir Campelo, the PTB Federal District senator, supporting the report of Senator Amir Lando (PMDB-RO) (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rondonia). Jose Eduardo Vieira, the PTB Parana senator, said that the Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] "presented evidence" that reveal President Collor's connection to PC.

Leaders Form 'Two Fronts' To Avoid Impeachment

PY2908033392 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Aug 92 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—The government political command reached the conclusion yesterday that if the voting was open, their chances to stop the impeachment in the Chamber of Deputies would be practically nil. In the face of this situation the government leaders have decided to act on two fronts: to force a decision for a secret vote, and to review the demands of congressmen in an effort to get more support for President Collor.

Collor himself headed the meeting of government leaders, who concluded the meeting divided. Ministers Bornhausen and Ricardo Fiuza, and leaders Luis Eduardo Magalhaes (PFL) [Liberal Front Party], and Marco Maciel (PFL), drew a pessimistic picture of the impeachment vote, but the so-called government "storm troops" headed by Bank of Brasil President Lafaiete Coutinho Torres and Federal Savings Bank President Alvaro Mendonca are sure that Collor can win.

In order to resolve the disagreement, they decided to carry out a detailed review of each bloc. The main target is a group of 40 deputies who are considered to be the ones who can change the balance.

One of the participants of the meeting said: If the voting is secret and the government acts correctly, there are chances of defeating the impeachment.

Jose Lourenco, the second government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, explained the strategy:

We will carry out an offensive operation to strengthen the government's congressional base, and on another front we will consolidate the support we already have. Lourenco, who is a member of the "storm troops," said: We are optimistic.

Nelson Marchezelli, leader of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], criticized the political coordination carried out by Minister Bornhausen, and recommended that President Collor personally command the operation.

Nelson Marchezelli said: If he who has the pen, the official gazette, and the Bank of Brazil is not able to get 168 votes, it shows that he is very weak.

According to the participants in the meeting Collor was optimistic when he heard an evaluation that there is still a possibility to defeat the impeachment request.

Collor said: The wish now is to replay an old tune—the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] as boss, as it was under the Sarney government.

Presidential spokesman Etevaldo Dias said emphatically that the president will not resign.

Trying to give the appearance of tranquility, Dias said: Never. Those who think they can convince President Collor to resign are deceiving themselves. Regarding the voting on the impeachment request, he said: The process will die here.

Despite the fact that an evaluation of the voting situation in the Chamber of Deputies, bloc by bloc, has begun, the government leaders avoided giving figures, and this may be evidence of weakness after the latest loss of congressional support.

One of the participants in the meeting said: The president is not yet desperate.

'Secret Voting Session' Considered

PY2908021492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Pro-government congressmen will fight for a secret voting session for the impeachment request in the Chamber of Deputies. However, Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro has not yet made an official decision on the voting process for the request for impeachment.

[Begin Pinheiro recording] My decision will be made when it becomes necessary, imperious. Right now, any statement by the president of the Chamber of Deputies could affect the impartiality he must maintain to conduct the process. [end recording]

[Begin Liberal Front Party Deputy Humberto Souto recording] A secret voting session will be good for the country. It will be good for the country and for the people, because when a congressman must decide on something as important as this, he needs to be impartial; he cannot be pressured either by businessmen, by economic powers, by politicians, by corporations, or by any organizations to force him to make a decision. I think that when one must decide on a subject like this one, one needs impartiality and tranquility. [end recording]

Governors Show Support for Impeachment 16-4

PY3008221892

[Editorial Report] Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese in its 28 August edition on page 8 publishes under the headline "The Governors' Positions" a map of Brazil featuring arrows connecting each Brazilian state to a small box containing the name of the state and a photograph of that state's governor. In another inset it publishes the score: 16 of the governors are in favor of the impeachment of Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, four are against, and seven are still undecided.

The diagram demonstrates that the governors' positions are as follows: Supporting the impeachment are Governors Gilberto Mestrinho, Amazonas; Osvaldo Pianna, Rondonia; Moises Avelino, Tocantins; Jaime Campos, Mato Grosso; Iris Rezende, Goias; Roberto Requiao, Parana; Alceu Collares, Rio Grande do Sul; Luiz Fleury Filho, Sao Paulo; Joaquim Roriz, Federal District; Leonel Brizola, Rio de Janeiro; Helio Garcia, Minas Gerais; Albuino Azeredo, Espirito Santo; Joaquim Francisco, Pernambuco; Cunha Lima, Paraiba; Ciro Gomes, Ceara; and Jader Barbalho, Para. Against the impeachment are Governors Annibal Barcellos, Amapa; Romildo Magalhaes, Acre; Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, Bahia; and Geraldo Bulhoes, Alagoas. Governors Otomar Pinto, Roraima; Edison Lobao, Maranhao; Freitas Neto, Piaui; Agripino Maia, Rio Grande do Norte; Joao Alves, Sergipe; Vilson Kleinubing, Santa Catarina; and Pedro Pedrossian, Mato Grosso do Sul, have still not made up their minds.

Impeachment Approved 'Only' if Rallies Continue

PY3008211892 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Aug 92 p 4

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo—The governors of Sao Paulo, Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], and of Ceara, Ciro Gomes (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] stated yesterday that those who are certain that the impeachment [preceding word in English] of President Fernando Collor will be approved by Congress are mistaken. The impeachment will be approved only if the rallies continue, he said.

"If people leave the streets there will not be the slightest chance," Ciro Gomes said.

"The rallies must be maintained to influence the voting. We cannot just let things happen. We must see to it that the people's feelings are felt, that the feelings of the people on the streets are the same as in Congress," Fleury Filho said. Declining to comment on the schedule of rallies being organized by the opposition, he said that he believes Congress will continue with "the trial carried out on the streets." [passage omitted]

PMDB's Support for Impeachment 'Obligatory'

PY2808034392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] congressional bloc has already decided to support the impeachment request against President Fernando Collor. Opposition and progovernment dissident congressmen are already working together to approve the impeachment request.

The political effect of the CPI [Congressional Investigation Commission] report is the unity of political opponents around a common subject: impeachment. Everyone has his eyes on the figures, the calendar, and on the support that is still lacking.

[Begin Brazilian Social Democracy Party Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso recording] The national feeling is such that this will be a practically unanimous motion. [Words indistinct] 80, 85 percent—as the weeks go by we will obtain more consistent support. [end recording]

This group will follow the process under the command of PFL [Liberal Front Party] Deputy Roseana Sarney. Every time a conversation is held a party member seeks the support of another party member.

The defense of the impeachment process already gathers together dissatisfied congressmen from nearly all the progovernment parties, except for the PRN [National Reconstruction Party]. The PMDB bloc in the Chamber of Deputies has 99 deputies, and the party has already established that voting in favor of the impeachment process is obligatory, under penalty of expulsion from the party. The mere absence of a PMDB member from the voting session will be considered a vote in favor of Collor.

[Begin PMDB Deputy Genebaldo Correa recording] The rest of the parties also decided to approve the impeachment request. Those who did not decide in its favor did suggest the issue in their bloc. [end recording]

PMDB's Correa Interviewed

PY2808143292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Interview with Bahia Deputy Genebaldo Correa, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, PMDB, congressional bloc, by "Good Morning Brazil" anchorman Antonio Augusto and reporter Andrea Boni—live]

[Text] [Augusto] Immediately after voting on the Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] report, the PMDB—which is the largest opposition party in the country—made a firm decision: It is in favor of President Collor's impeachment. The PMDB bloc, however, is also concerned about preserving stability and governability during this period of political indefiniteness. We will discuss these ideas with Deputy Genebaldo Correa, PMDB leader at the Chamber of Deputies. Good morning.

[Correa] Good morning.

[Augusto] Andre Boni is here in the studio to interview you.

[Correa] It is my pleasure.

[Boni] My pleasure.

[Augusto] Deputy, why has is it been necessary to be so firm and incisive about closing the PMDB's ranks in support of the impeachment process? Are any PMDB members against impeachment?

[Correa] That is not the situation. The PMDB's attitude throughout the CPI process was to wait for the final report. Once read and approved, the PMDB decided to clearly establish its political position by supporting impeachment and accepting as true the contents of the approved report.

The PMDB bloc met at the Chamber and not one bloc member disagreed with the decision, which was thus unanimously approved. Even some of the parties that are considered government supporters and the majority of the deputies support impeachment. Consequently, it is currently taken for granted that a request for impeachment will be approved.

[Boni] The ministers have already released a communique stating that the government is still operating. With this entire process, how can it be possible to preserve governability? Do you believe this is possible?

[Correa] Some minutes ago we heard here the comments of a representative of the economic area, of the entrepreneurial area. His words showed that the National Congress holds the indispensable balance between the political crisis and the necessary measures to preserve the country's governability. I think that some facts are positive, and we must point out that the political situation is one thing and the country's interests are another. The communique released by the ministers, for example, was a very important factor for calming the country. What the ministers really said was: We are here but our presence does not represent solidarity with the president. We will continue to administer the country until Congress decides the issue.

Inside Congress, the parties realize that Congress will approve whatever measure is necessary to maintain the normal administration.

Yesterday the leaders met with a Health Ministry representative to discuss the authorization of a loan for hospitals, because the country cannot stop. Congress is aware of that. We are responsible people and very aware of our duties at this stage.

[Augusto] There is some fear that if President Collor leaves, the platform on which he was elected—modernization, the opening of the economy to the foreign market and imports—will be abandoned. Do you believe this would happen?

[Correa] Absolutely not. Even during the CPI investigation process the country must have realized that Congress approved important bills, including those that follow the president's political line. Congress—the Chamber of Deputies—approved, for example, a law on ports during the CPI process....

[Augusto, interrupting] But this law is paralyzed now.

[Correa] Its approval in the Senate is suspended right now. It was suspended because the situation became worse, but I am sure that it will be approved this year. We know that the entire movement is not against the president's government program because several aspects of his program have been approved by Congress. We approved the Collor Plan I and Collor Plan II, and the main bills he sent to Congress.

[Boni] To conclude, I would like you to comment on the opposition negotiations with Vice President Itamar Franco for an emergency plan.

[Correa] I think that this is not the time for that, especially because it would strengthen the president's belief that the entire process is merely a struggle for power and that the distribution of public positions has already been covered. I believe that an appropriate time to discuss this issue will occur later.

[Augusto] You believe this is not the proper moment to discuss the issue.

[Correa] I believe that it would not help to solve our problem. It would not favor the impeachment process because it would create disagreements between the parties and the forces that are supporting the impeachment process.

[Augusto] Deputy Genebaldo Correa, thank you very much for participating in our program.

[Correa] I must thank you for the opportunity.

Foreign Minister Pledges No Economic Changes

PY2808182092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1532 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Aug (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Lafer today said in Brasilia today that the neoliberal economic program will not change, irrespective of President Fernando Collor's continuation in power.

Minister Lafer summoned the ambassadors of the Group of Seven (G-7) member countries to the Foreign Ministry this morning where he briefed them on the current political crisis.

Official sources told EFE that Lafer told the diplomats that "the country's governability" will be guaranteed during the president's upcoming political trial.

Lafer said that the government's economic modernization program will not change the "outcome" of the crisis, adding that the present political process being discussed by Congress will not affect democratic institutions.

Lafer summoned the heads of Ibero-American diplomatic missions for a meeting this afternoon to offer them a similar explanation.

Lafer, a member of the so-called "governability ministry" which has began operating independently from Collor without apparent objection, told the G-7 representatives that the crisis will not prevent Brazil from fulfilling its international obligations.

Among those obligations are agreements on the foreign debt with the IMF, the Paris Club, and private banks. All those agreements were signed this year and served to normalize the country's relations with the international financial community.

The economic adjustment program has the approval of the IMF, the debt with official entities was refinanced at the Paris Club, and last July the country agreed with the Banks Advisory Committee to begin disbursements on its $44 billion debt with banks.

Brazil could benefit from a 35-percent reduction of this debt according to the options offered to nearly 700 creditor banks.

Lafer was invited last April by Economy "Superminister" Marcilio Marques Moreira to become the foreign minister. He told the diplomats that with or without Collor there will be a re-composition of political forces to form a new cabinet at the end of the trial.

Marques Moreira, 61, trusts that the crisis will be resolved within three weeks. The solution might include the installation of Vice President Itamar Franco as head of state.

Moreira: Economy Functions Despite 'Crisis'

PY2908031292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The minister of economy said in Parana that the most favorable thing for the country would be a fast solution to the crisis. Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira explained why the political crisis is not affecting the Brazilian economy:

[Begin Moreira recording] The economy is currently working without the daily intervention of the government. Therefore, President Collor's great innovative policy of withdrawing the government's influence from the economy—either through price-setting, or import authorizations, or many other regulations which stifled private initiative—has permitted the economy, which is a market economy, to coexist with crisis, as happens in all democratic countries. [end recording]

Guimaraes Recovering 'Well' After Operation

PY3008004092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes was operated on early this morning in Sao Paulo after an appendicitis attack. He felt sick in Brasilia, and was quickly taken to Sao Paulo.

Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes arrived at Auxilio Libanes Hospital shortly after 2000 yesterday. The hospital's

clinic director, surgeon Daher Cutaid, an old friend of the deputy, was already waiting for him.

The initial tests carried out yesterday evening already revealed a diagnosis of acute appendicitis, and surgery was considered unavoidable. The operation carried out this morning lasted about one hour.

The first medical bulletin released at noon today reported that the surgery had been carried out without any complications, and that the deputy was already convalescing well. [passage omitted]

This afternoon the deputy's advisers, who are here at the hospital, said he has already awakened, chatted, and has even expressed his willingness to return to Brasilia soon.

The last medical bulletin released reports that Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes is in excellent condition.

French Ratification of Tlatelolco Treaty Praised

PY2808151292 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The Brazilian Government has conveyed its great satisfaction over France's ratification of the Additional Protocol No. 1 to the Tlatelolco Treaty, which bans nuclear weapons in Latin America.

The protocol includes provisions on the nuclear powers which, despite being outside Latin America, have territories in the region coming under their jurisdiction. For instance, France has French Guyana.

According to Itamaraty, the French ratification of the protocol will make it possible for the Tlatelolco Treaty soon to take effect in the entire Latin American region.

Civil Servants Salary Equity Decree Signed

PY2808133292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by Luiz Augusto Mendonca from Planalto Palace]

[Text] President Fernando Collor today signed a salary equity plan for executive branch civil servants.

The 11 existing salary scales have been reduced to just three. Most servants, a little more than 1 million, are now included in a single scale. These servants will receive a real increase of 40 percent for the July-November period.

In August, all civil servants will receive a 20-percent adjustment and a 30-percent bonus. With the new scales, the average real earnings will total 67 percent and a 50-percent bonus in November.

Labor Minister Joao Mellao stressed that the government has tried to do everything possible to assist the executive branch equity plan.

[Begin Mellao recording] I believe justice has been done to many careers that were totally out of proportion in categories that were totally out of proportion. I believe that this has been done. [end recording]

An equity plan has already been implemented for military civil servants; they will receive a 20-percent increase during August.

The September payroll will total 1.6 trillion cruzeiros.

Chile

Brazilian President Suspends Official Visit

PY2808115292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Report by Carmen Castro from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has reported that Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello has suspended his two-day official visit to Chile, which had in principle been scheduled for 16-18 September. Collor was planning to then continue to New York to attend the UN General Assembly.

Asked about Collor's decision to suspend his visit, Silva Cimma said that it was suspended because of Brazil's critical internal situation caused by hard opposition to President Collor, who appears to be linked with cases of corruption. This is the second time Collor de Mello has suspended a visit to Chile. His first visit was slated for December 1991.

According to latest reports from Brasilia, Presidential Spokesman Etevaldo Dias has stated that Collor de Mello will not resign, despite the fact that the president will be impeached by the Chamber of Deputies [as heard].

The Foreign Ministry also reported that the government has decided to withdraw Chilean Ambassador to Belgrade Luis Jerez because of the intensification of human right violations in the former Yugoslavia. These cruel events are mainly focused in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Jerez was appointed ambassador in March 1990.

The Foreign Ministry today issued an official communique stating that its diplomatic mission at the United Nations will endorse the call for a special session by a UN human rights commission. This measure was suggested by the United States. The Chilean Government will continue holding consultations with other friendly countries in an effort to establish peace in the former Yugoslavia.

Argentina 'Will Ratify' Glaciers Treaty

PY2808134092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem last night told his Chilean counterpart that the Argentine Congress will ratify the Continental Glaciers Treaty.

Speaking at a dinner given at La Moneda Palace, Menem said that relations between the two countries have never been as excellent as they are now, adding that they will continue to improve every day.

[Begin recording] Mr. President. You can rest assured that as long as I am president of Argentina, I will do everything I can to strengthen and improve the good friendship and brotherhood that we Argentines and Chileans really deserve. [end recording]

President Menem added that until the Continental Glaciers conflict is solved, neither nation can claim sovereignty over the region.

President Aylwin expressed his country's satisfaction over the progress achieved with Argentina, not just concerning economic integration but also concerning border issues which were so difficult in the recent past. He said:

[Begin recording] Friendship between our nations has been forged through a continuous effort. The circumstances experienced have never weakened our friendship. The 1984 Peace and Friendship Treaty marked the beginning of a period of cooperation, understanding, and integration. [end recording]

Present at the dinner also were ministers of state, political, church, and military officials, and the entire Argentine presidential delegation.

Joint Declaration Signed

PY2808231292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] In a joint declaration signed by President Patricio Aylwin and his Argentine counterpart Carlos Menem, the Chilean Government supports Argentine demands over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the territory around them.

This fact was stressed by the Argentine president in a news conference when he reaffirmed, as Chile did also, his invariable support of the principle of peaceful solutions to controversies.

[Begin Menem recording] As the Chilean president said very well, it is the first time in the history of our two countries that in a document such as the one we signed today the rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands are recognized. At least this is the way I feel. [end recording]

The 18-page joint declaration reflects the current bilateral relations between the two countries in the political field, a progressive solution to the border conflicts, the development of economic relations, progress in energy cooperation, the elimination of border restrictions, and others.

President Menem, who arrived in the country last night, will return to Argentina this afternoon.

Both the Chilean and Argentine presidents granted a joint news conference at Government House. Presidents Patricio Aylwin and Carlos Menem expressed their optimism regarding the ratification by the two congresses of their respective countries of the Continental Glaciers Treaty. Menem said he would risk anything, because a politician who does not risk anything for peace is playing another game.

[Begin Menem recording] You can be sure that we are going to reach an understanding, an agreement that will not damage either of the two countries. Neither the Chilean nor the Argentine Governments are in a hurry concerning this matter, as some have said. We are going to wait as long as is necessary to reach a just and equitable solution. We must once and for all weed out this sort of xenophobia in the field of nationalism, which has caused so much damage to both Chile and Argentina. [end recording]

This idea was also shared by the Chilean president, who said that he frankly sees with great optimism the political process being developed through this treaty. A congressional mechanism demands a debate on the issue, he said. The congressmen must be informed, and must take the necessary time for that, he said.

[Begin Aylwin recording] President Menem and I today signed this on behalf of our governments, because we feel that it is a good solution for the two. We hope, with patience, that it will be approved. We do not want to turn this into a source of conflict. If it is not approved, the peace and friendship agreement which is in effect has other peaceful mechanisms for finding a solution to the conflict. [end recording]

Menem then said that talks are being held concerning candidates for the presidency of FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization]. Chile has one candidate, while Argentina has another. I hope that the blood will not reach the river, he said laughingly, and surely it will not. We will figure out how to solve this problem.

Aylwin Expresses Support

PY2908030792 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Excerpt] The brief visit by Argentine President Carlos Menem concluded this afternoon. Menem said that despite the detractors he trusts that the border treaty over the continental glaciers will be ratified.

It was not possible for Menem to return Chilean President Patricio Aylwin's visit to Argentina by bringing to Chile the congressional ratification of the Continental Glaciers Treaty. The opposition was greater than expected. Despite that, an integration agreement was signed in Santiago. According to insistent reports, the Argentines wanted the agreement to include Chilean recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. But the position adopted by Chile was different:

[Begin Aylwin recording] It is not appropriate for a third country to state a position over the essence of a controversy the details of which we do not know. This is why we only expressed our support for the Argentine juridical position. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Military Opposition Denied

PY2908191992 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem's last official activity in Chile was to pay a courtesy call on the presidents of both chambers of Congress. The meeting took place at Santiago's Senate headquarters, known as Velazco's House, where an amiable conversation ensued. At the end of this short visit, Menem repeated that he is confident that the Argentine Congress will ratify the treaty on continental glaciers. He also denied allegations that the military are against the treaty.

[Begin Menem recording] That is just a paid advertisement published by some retired army officers. There are other politicians and members of the Armed Forces who are in favor of the treaty, though. One should not be concerned about it because the treaty is not a hard and fast issue, and therefore one is free to have a personal opinion about it. [end recording]

Senate President Gabriel Valdes praised the Argentine president's endeavors to have the treaty ratified. He pointed out that even though this is an important issue, it cannot be subordinated to other interests shared by both countries.

[Begin Valdes recording] Although the treaty is highly significant, it is only part of a comprehensive solution to all outstanding disputes. You must bear in mind that this is just one controversy among the many which already have been surmounted, namely 22 issues which were the cause of a longstanding conflict, or rather, disagreement between Argentina and Chile concerning their common border. We realize that these problems must be resolved immediately. These matters are nonexistent in Europe or Asia. Boundary disputes which arose in the 19th century obviously must be settled. [end recording]

Valdes added that there is no deadline set for the two congresses to ratify the treaty and went on to say that, in general, there is a favorable atmosphere regarding the treaty in the Senate, as it is part of an all-encompassing solution to settle longstanding boundary disputes with Argentina.

The vice presidents of both chambers of Congress, as well as members of both chambers' international affairs committees, attended the meeting.

Pinochet's Bodyguards Scuffle With Reporters

PY2808175092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Violent incidents were reported at the end of a formal dinner at La Moneda Palace between Argentine reporters and the bodyguards of Chilean Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet.

While Gen. Pinochet was answering questions on the Argentine-Chilean border conflict and giving his opinion on President Menem's visit, his bodyguards violently tried to keep the reporters away. This annoyed the Argentine reporters who complained loudly.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] Why do you ask something you already know?

[Unidentified reporter] Well, in Argentina it is said that you do not agree with the Continental Glaciers Treaty. Is this true?

[Pinochet] Well, in Argentina people say many things which are not true.

[indistinct simultaneous and superimposed questions by reporters]

[Pinochet] I want to repeat, history...

[Reporter, interrupting] General, do you agree with the treaty?

[Pinochet] I can go as far as the 1984 treaty. That is final for me.

[Reporter] Do you agree, then, with this....

[Pinochet, interrupting] Do you want me to tell the story?

[Reporters] General, what do you think about President Menem's visit?

[Pinochet] As I just told the president, it is a pleasure for me to shake his hand. I am a man who does not forget things, as a good Chilean. He had been very noble with me, and I thank him. [end recording]

As the questions continued and the tone of voice was increasingly higher and stronger, the action of his escort also became stronger, causing the Argentine professionals to become very angry, especially when they saw their television cameras and other cameras destroyed.

Even after the incidents were over, following the intervention of Palace guards, the Argentine reporters kept complaining and asking: Where is democracy if this type of things keep happening here?

Incidents 'Deeply Regretted'

PY2808232892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has deeply regretted the incidents staged last night between Argentine reporters and General Augusto Pinochet's bodyguards, at the end of the dinner given at La Moneda Palace on the occasion of the visit of Argentine President Carlos Menem.

He added that Gen. Pinochet did not deserve the treatment to which he was submitted by the foreign reporters. [passage omitted]

Judge To Probe Senator's Phone Tapping

PY2908201992 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] By a 12-3 vote, the Supreme Court voted for the government's request to appoint a judge to delve into the telephone bugging case involving Senator Sebastian Pinera [National Renewal Party]. It appointed Santiago's Appellate Court Judge Alberto Chaigneau del Campo. Dissenting votes were cast by Justices Lionel Beraud, Osvaldo Faundez, and German Valenzuela Erazo, who considered that the requirements established in Article 560 of the law governing the structure and operations of the courts had not been met.

Asked about the Supreme Court's ruling, Pinera's attorney, Miguel Alex Schweitzer, underscored Judge Chaigneau's praiseworthy career.

[Begin Schweitzer recording] The court's acceptance of the request to appoint a judge is most reassuring. Besides, Judge Chaigneau has built up an excellent reputation for himself over the years. He has heard very delicate and urgent trials; thus I have no doubt that he will handle the investigation until he gets to the bottom of the problem we are seeking to clear up, namely who was behind the telephone bugging. [end recording]

After he was notified of his appointment, Judge Chaigneau stated that over the weekend he will study the dossier that Judge Alejandro Solis gave him. Judge Solis of Santiago's Fifth Criminal Court has until now been hearing the case regarding the action brought by the Communications and Culture Secretariat. The last inquiry done by Judge Solis was to question Jaime Celedon, anchorman of the television program "Around Five Past Nine" ["A eso de las nueve y cinco"] during which Senator Pinera's recording was played back. In his testimony, which lasted for about half an hour, Celedon said that none of the panelists knew about the recording. He did not discard the possibility that he might resign from the program.

[Begin Celedon recording] It all depends. I said on Sunday that I make common cause with my journalists. Thus, if I notice that they no longer trust me, I will act accordingly. [end recording]

Moreover, it was leaked that Ricardo Claro [not further identified] gave the judge a description of the person who handed him the tape as well as the reasons why he made it public.

Meanwhile, the First Santiago's Appellate Court started to review a petition for a court injunction filed by Sebastian Pinera. Before deciding on this, it requested information from the telephone company, Entel Chile, the Investigative Police, and Megavision to investigate the origin of this tape and whether there are other tapes.

Retirement Schedule for CNI Officers Announced

PY2908154092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has stated that the retirement of Army officers who were agents of the defunct CNI [National Intelligence Center] will be completed by 1993. These officers now work at the Army Intelligence Directorate.

Rojas has pointed out that he hopes this issue will not become a stumbling block for the approval of next year's Armed Forces budget, as was the case in previous years. He said he expects to reach an agreement with the Army on these retirements by the time Congress broaches the budget issue.

Rojas has explained that the established procedure will be applied, namely the gradual retirement of those officers who held posts at intelligence services during the previous military regime.

[Begin Rojas recording] Retirement of officers has been effected gradually since 1991. Officers are being retired now, and we also hope that many will take early retirement this year. The retirement schedule will be completed by 1993. [end recording]

To conclude, Rojas said that on account of this, he hopes that discussions on the Armed Forces budget will center upon subjects really relevant to that sector.

Colombia

Guerrilla, Government Peace Dialogue Viewed

PA2908144192 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 26 Aug 92 p 6A

[Text] Participants in the Regional Peace Forum for Peace inaugurated on 25 August in Ibague were surprised when they received a document—12 letter-sized handwritten pages—issued in "the mountains of Colombia" by the general staff of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB].

The CNGSB said it has sent the government "12 peace proposals" on 12 different occasions but all it has encountered has been arrogance and a lack of willingness to reach an agreement.

The document said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Army of National Liberation, and Popular Liberation Army are willing to participate in "a dialogue without conditions;" and it warned the offensive launched by official forces for the past 21 months has proved the government "cannot achieve a victory."

The CNGSB commanders said a new peace process must include the participation of the government, the

CNGSB, and "delegates of other government branches, the church, political parties and movements, social groups, economic groups, and the people's movement."

They defend regional dialogues because these allow "the whole country to participate in the process in a dynamic and organized way, because this is a responsibility shared by everyone."

The document accused the government of trying to impose "its particular purposes" on the country and of tolerating a high degree of corruption at every level in the public sector.

"The level of administrative corruption in the public and private sectors, the graft and influence peddling, the shady deals and irresponsible attitude concerning the handling of public affairs, the almost total absence of ethics and honesty, and the political deals and ineffectiveness represent political customs that raise protests because they lead to frustration and pain for the homeland," the document stated.

The CNGSB document said the new peace dialogues must review "the economic and social situation" because the nation wants "peace with social justice."

"It is clear we need a state with a marked social outline because a police state cannot represent the essence of unity in a society," it added.

Separate Negotiations Possible

PA2908174892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] is holding a meeting to make a peace proposal to the government. Some reports indicate that a major FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] faction led by Alfonso Cano wants to hold a separate dialogue and become a political party.

The ELN [National Liberation Army] wants to negotiate with the government a cease-fire and a suspension of terrorist attacks. The guerrilla organization made this announcement during a summit held by guerrilla fronts in a mountainous region of Antioquia Department. The ELN said it held a dialogue in Tlaxcala, Mexico, but that it never negotiated anything. Now it is willing to sit down at the negotiating table to discuss a cease-fire and the suspension of sabotage against oil pipelines. A proposal for negotiations was sent by ELN leader Manuel Perez to the peace advisory to initiate contact that could lead to definitive agreements.

According to military intelligence reports, FARC fronts are also present at the so-called National Guerrilla Conference. They are discussing the possibility of holding separate negotiations for a peace agreement, which will be submitted within a month to the government's Reconciliation and Peace Advisory. Others say Alfonso Cano is leading a dissident wing of the FARC and that he has serious disagreements with Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias Tirofijo.

FARC 'Terrorist Offensive' Plans Reported

PA2908002792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2033 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 27 Aug (EFE)—The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] communist guerrillas plan on launching in the coming weeks a terrorist offensive in the five most important cities of Colombia, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) (secret police) charged on 27 August.

According to the DAS, the rebels intend to place explosive devices in hotels, shopping malls, and financial and banking centers in Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Santa Marta—all in Colombia's northern coast—Santiago de Cali, in the southwest, and in Santa Fe de Bogota.

The plot "would aim to set the stage for the peace process" and the dialogue between the guerrillas and the government would be resumed in October. This was disclosed by deserters of the so-called "Bolivarian militia" exterminating groups operating in poor neighborhoods under the guerrillas' command.

The data indicate that new commands would be organized in the Uraba region, north of the Cordoba and Antioquia departments. It was also disclosed that at least 100 well-trained men in explosive operations would be charged with carrying out the attacks, kidnappings, and the "murder of mayors, governors, and influential persons linked to the government."

In addition, a large number of 19 April Movement (M-19) and Popular Liberation Army (EPL) members—rebel groups who signed a peace agreement with the government and who are integrated into the Colombian political life—could also be singled out as victims.

The DAS, through a communique, points out that the FARC terrorists could take advantage of the tourist season in cities such as Cartagena and Santa Marta "to promote its political activities directed at foreign tourists, by using diverse attacks on hotels and by occupying local radio stations."

The assertion points out that there is an unheard of rise in weapons trafficking among the rebel organizations and there is information that at the end of August or beginning of September, a large cargo of weapons is expected to arrive in the country.

In its communique the DAS stated: "To conclude, the FARC leadership's intention is to foster the urban guerrilla networks, disguised as Bolivarian militia, who will perform multiple operations in the urban area with the support of the rural guerrillas."

The FARC, Latin America's oldest active guerrilla group, is over 10,000-men strong and with the Army of National Liberation (EPL) (Marxist) and a dissident

faction of the Maoist EPL, form the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB).

The CNGSB has been engaged in a dialogue with the government for over one year, however, the conversations have been interrupted by the serious discrepancies that separate both parties.

The resumption of the dialogue, nevertheless, is slated for 31 October, however, the executive has conditioned its participation to the guerrillas' demonstration that it truly has the political will to negotiate.

ELN Faction Forces Said 'Surrounded'

PA3108014792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Francisco Galan, spokesman of the ELN [Army of National Liberation] in the fruitless peace dialogue, acknowledged on 29 August that its forces are surrounded. He sent a video-letter to a journalists meeting in Barrancabermeja and announced a guerrilla counteroffensive to overcome the situation.

The ELN Camilista Union acknowledged it is surrounded by the Army in several areas of the country and added its terrorist actions will be stepped up.

[Begin Galan recording] We confess publicly that we are surrounded. We are surrounded in this acute confrontation and we will break out with a military action. [end recording]

The video-letter sent by Francisco Galan to the meeting of journalists in conflict-ridden areas held at Barrancabermeja said the ELN recognizes it has imposed a war tax on multinational enterprises. It also warns journalists about coverage of the war. The ELN did not explain in its speech why it has threatened the newspaper VANGUARDIA LIBERAL, which has been publishing announcements of rewards for the delivery of kidnappers.

Former Guerrillas Leave Costa Rican Embassy

PA2808182292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1759 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Authorities have announced that former members of the 19 April guerrilla group (M-19) who occupied the Costa Rican Embassy on 26 August left the embassy on 28 August after reaching an agreement with President Cesar Gaviria's administration.

The former guerrillas left the embassy shortly after 1100 [1500 GMT] after signing a joint declaration in which the Colombian Government pledged to amend its program for the reintegration of the guerrillas that was agreed upon with the M-19 in 1990.

Prosecutor General Comments on Escobar Case

PA2908011792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] In an unexpected letter addressed to Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta, Pablo Escobar Gaviria's lawyer Santiago Uribe expressed concern that the government's policy of demanding that drug traffickers submit themselves to the administration of justice lacks imprisonment stipulations for those who surrender.

In addition, the deadline for Escobar to surrender ended 28 August. The fugitive has two alternatives, either to remain at large or surrender for the second time and receive the legal benefits that are still offered.

The Prosecutor General's Office has just opened a door for Escobar. The law, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said, leaves open the possibility of Escobar surrendering with a reduction of his sentence. In this instance, however, Escobar would have to confess to a crime different from the one he confessed to after he surrendered to the authorities for the first time in June of last year. His sentence would be reduced by one-third. He also has a chance to have his sentence reduced by one-sixth if he cooperates with the authorities by giving information leading to the perpetrators of other crimes.

De Grieff also said that there is another benefit. The trial could be concluded ahead of schedule if Escobar negotiates his sentence with the Attorney General's Office. Escobar waived the benefits of his previous surrender when he escaped from prison.

These stipulations were described by the prosecutor general in a letter replying to a consultation presented by Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez.

Term for Surrender Expires 31 Aug

PA2908180492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff, in an interview with the "NTC Noticias" newscast on the morning of 29 August, made important clarifications regarding the possible surrender of Medellin Cartel leader Pablo Escobar.

It is known that Escobar's lawyers delivered a document to the Presidency in which they included a timetable for his surrender. The country's Prosecutor General's Office told "NTC Noticias" that the time period for Pablo Escobar's voluntary surrender to the justice system did not expire on 28 August. The Prosecutor General's Office made a mistake in the date. The deadline for Escobar's surrender and for that of the others who fled La Catedral Prison in Envigado will expire on 31 August. Escobar's voluntary surrender will prevent him from losing the sentence reduction benefits he was entitled to after turning himself in and confessing to crimes such as drug trafficking.

Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said Escobar still has 48 hours, beginning 29 August, to turn himself in.

* Ex-Minister Answers Critics on Escobar Case

92WD0984Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Aug 92 pp 1A, 12A

[Report by Camilo Chaparro]

[Text] The agreements the government signed a year ago through the Ministry of Justice to persuade Pablo Escobar Gaviria to turn himself in had some weak points "that I tried to eliminate in order to bring this case to a safe conclusion," former Minister of Justice Fernando Carrrilo said yesterday.

"As soon as the agreements were signed, it was apparent that they had many weak points, many Achilles' heels: primarily the lease between the Ministry of Justice and the municipality of Envigado."

Carrillo said Pablo Escobar was confined to a drug rehabilitation center, which was actually a country house surrounded by barbed wire. "It was not a high-security prison."

He added: "There is no information about the equipment and security conditions at the Envigado jail when Escobar turned himself in."

In an exclusive interview with EL TIEMPO, Carrillo said that both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defense share responsibility for what happened at the Envigado jail, and therefore, they should both be called upon to respond politically.

In speaking of security at the jail, Carrillo said: "External security at La Catedral was the Fourth Brigade's responsibility, and the prison's internal security, which was handled by prison guards, depended on the brigade. The only assurance of security was the brigade's 150 soldiers."

He said that at La Catedral there were more than 400 eyes that did not see, or at least that did not report, what was going on inside the prison.

The former minister said that under the rental contract for La Catedral—signed by the Ministry of Justice and the town of Envigado—the local administration was allowed a disproportionate and improper involvement in all legal dealings involving the prison center.

"There were two points in that agreement that would have had to be broken for it to be a real jail. First, it was necessary to move ahead with projects to convert this drug rehabilitation center into a maximum-security prison. And that was prohibited by the lease. Secondly, the selection of the guards was really a weak point. The guards were chosen by a committee on which the mayor of the town sat."

The former minister said that to correct those failings, they appointed members of the military and adopted new security measures.

"When I came into the ministry I found a prisoner who had turned himself in to the Ministry of Justice 50 days earlier, and there were some circumstances that I had nothing to do with. They were 'faits accomplis' that I simply had to work with. I met Escobar in jail and turned him in in jail."

Carrillo said the head of the Medellin Cartel was a prisoner who received some special treatment because he had turned himself in.

"What the country is forgetting is that neither the police, nor the Army, nor the investigative forces caught him. He was a unique sort of prisoner, and that is why there was a special rental arrangement for the jail."

The former minister revealed that he had immediately and repeatedly urged Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Ruedo to work with him to appoint an officer as director of prisons, but according to Carrillo, the defense minister refused to do so.

"What made that possible was the report filed by the Prosecutor's Office about luxuries in the jail," he added.

Carrillo said that Colonel Hernando Navas Rubio and Colonel (R) Homero Rodriguez were both chosen by the Narino Military Headquarters to serve as director of prisons and of the jail.

"Moreover," Carrillo said, "Navas was recommended by former Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo. General Botero sent his name, along with that of five other people, to the government."

"The director of the jail, Col. Homero Rodriguez, was a man who had made a name for himself in the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] for his courage. To put it graphically, you could say that Homero was General Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez's man in the Envigado jail."

Carrillo said his actions concerning the Minsitry of Justice should not be criticized because "I did not visit La Catedral jail."

Election of Magistrates Called 'Shameful'

PA2808232492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] The events taking place in Congress is unbelievable. Seven National Judiciary Council magistrates were elected on 26 August during a shameful election. Now, on 27 August the same Congress initiates an investigation on two of the seven magistrates. These two magistrates have been accused by the Chamber of Representatives Commission of Charges.

The congressional plenary on 26 August elected the seven magistrates to the National Judiciary Council in the midst of political anarchy and excessive influence peddling. In an action that some congressmen described as shameful, there was a sad show at the Congress that

turned the Oval Hall into a market to elect the body entrusted with administrating justice.

Votes were distributed left and right. Some congressmen tried to convince their colleagues to elect a friend and others did not even hide their soliciting of votes.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Rafael Amador] This is an electoral Persian market in which the congressmen themselves are asking us to elect their brothers, their brothers-in-law, and their cousins. How can I vote in such a manner that I consider unconstitutional?

[Deputy Jose Guerra] There is no justification for this cheap show we are witnessing on 26 August in the Congress of Colombia.

[Deputy Enrique Gomez] I am leaving this hall, because not even with a blank vote can I justify this attack against the Colombian judiciary system with such hateful corruption. [end recording]

The disorder was so large, that the congressmen did not even discuss topics, such as the draft bill on kidnapping that was presented on 26 August.

The most important room of the Senate was left like any street following election day, and the most important body for administrating justice was elected in the midst of jeering. Four liberals, one conservative, one Democratic New Force member, and one 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance member are members of the council.

As if the anarchy and the influence peddling that took place on 26 August were not enough, it was learned on 27 August that two of the elected magistrates have pending legal cases before the Chamber of Representatives Commission of Charges. Leovigildo Bernal and Alvaro Echeverry have charges pending before that commission.

Bernal is accused of corrupt practice by the 23d Circuit Court in case number 126 dated 1976. Echeverry is charged with soliciting services in case number 344 presented by the National Bar Association. The congress elected them on 26 August and then begins to investigate them on 27 August.

Communists Vow To Resist Loss of Legal Status

PA3008162792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] The old Communist Party of Colombia has been declared legally dead. The comrades are resisting. They have always been here, with their very particular and combative nature. They have been tenacious, virtually stubborn critics for the past 60 years. They have been in the opposition because that is their role. Their fate seems to be a sort of eternal exile from power.

Those are the communists, who are known affectionately as the dummies [mamertos]. They are the same ones who—without prior warning, and because of perestroyka—were left helpless and orphaned. One day they woke up to find they had become ideological dinosaurs. They vowed, however, to continue struggling.

On 29 August the communists lost legal status as a political party. They are sad and worried. They want to recover their mission in the country's political life:

[Begin recording, unidentified Communist Party of Colombia member] The causes that we Colombian communists have defended—peace, democracy, and the aspirations of the people and workers—are still in force and alive, and will continue to live until there is a profound and significant change in Colombian life. [end recording]

The communists refuse to die this way, sadly. They want to continue the struggle. They have already collected 70,000 signatures and will present 15,000 more to the Electoral Council. If necessary, they will file a petition for protection to repeal the decision that stripped them of legal status. They want to remain in the opposition, but within the system.

Editorial Urges Government To Promote Trade

PA2908223292 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Aug 92 p 4a

[Editorial: "Central America"]

[Text] A piece of information that should not go unnoticed is the agreement signed last week between Mexico and five Central American countries—Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica—to establish a free trade zone within the next four years. The agreement, which is of a broad nature, defines the general rules for bilateral negotiations between each one of those countries and Mexico. It also sets 31 December 1996 as the starting date for free commercial exchange on a totally competitive basis. On that date, those five Central American countries will be in a position to sell more than 1,000 products to Mexico and the zone, as a whole, will have a population of over 110 million people.

Not only is Mexico looking to the North, but it is also approaching its neighbors in the South to strengthen its economic influence in the region by increasing trade and investment possibilities for its products and capitals. If the United States and Central America are added to Colombia, Venezuela, and Chile—a country with which Mexico already signed a free trade pact similar to the one subscribed with Central America—the Mexican strategy clearly stands out: To make its economy the center of a Latin American commercial axis and one that can also serve as bridge in the relations between the region and the United States.

In the meantime and despite all the efforts made by Colombia to design a foreign trade strategy, the country's priorities do not seem to be clearly outlined. As we have said many times in this newspaper, it is a good thing to

have acquired free trade relations with Venezuela and that the United States gives preferential treatment to some of our exports. It is our understanding that our country is currently carrying out simultaneous negotiations with Mexico to get the G-3 with Chile to establish free trade conditions. The country is also negotiating with Ecuador to promote exchange based on President Duran-Ballen's new policy changes. Furthermore, several government sectors are interested in strengthening our economic ties with Central America—those countries are our neighbors due to the special geographic location of San Andres and Providencia—as we can no longer influence the zone through political diplomacy because the interregional disputes, as well as the internal conflicts, in most of those countries have ended. Something similar can be said about our relations with the Caribbean islands. We have received information from Cali that the Foreign Ministry has reported that the markets of the future lie in the Pacific. Thus, there is already talk of another offensive in that part of the planet.

It is positive for Colombia to look to its neighbors and, in general, to the rest of the world for trade. The internationalization of our economy is based on such actions and, undoubtedly, this is what we have to do to leave our traditional isolation behind. It is, however, necessary to concentrate efforts and resources in geographic zones which are important to Colombia for different reasons and which are good perspectives for our commerce. Central America is, as Mexico has clearly seen, one of these zones.

Defense Minister on Installation of Garrisons

PA2908033992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Minister of Defense Rafael Pardo Rueda in Sucre Department, on 28 August, announced the installation of nine new patrol garrisons to counter kidnapping and extortion. The minister met with the military leaders of the Atlantic coast regions in Corozal to review the public security situation in that area. In Sucre, 40 people have been kidnapped this year. Minister Pardo Rueda confirmed reports that the cattle breeders reject the idea of creating paramilitary organizations.

[Begin Pardo recording] They said that they do not want paramilitary or private justice groups. They want, and we are providing, the presence of the authorities and the public forces. They said they will collaborate with them, within their area of competence, and would not carry out any action that is exclusive to the public forces. [end recording]

Peru

OAS Session Ratifies 'Trust' in Government

PA2908021992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] On 28 August, the OAS ratified its trust in the Peruvian Government due to its efforts to promote a return to democratic institutionality.

The OAS also decided to send observers to oversee the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] elections at a date to be set by OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares. [sentence as heard]

[Begin Baena Soares recording] It is important to note that the promulgation of the electoral law marked the beginning of a process that will culminate on 22 November with elections to a CCD. This process is precise and is being accomplished. [end recording]

The OAS session was presided over by Colombian diplomat Julio Cesar Londono. It began with the reading of a report on the Peruvian situation prepared by the ad hoc commission which was appointed following the OAS April meeting in Washington.

The document, which was read by Secretary General Baena Soares, explains the steps the commission took to promote an understanding between the government and the opposition. The understanding was secured when the government called a national dialogue for peace and development and when it called political parties to a dialogue.

After the document was read, there was a debate. All the members of the Permanent Council participated in this debate. The Peruvian Government's position was defended by Special Ambassador Alejandro Leon Pasos, who replaced Pablo Portugal. The Peruvian representative said that his government is fully complying with the commitments acquired by the Peruvian people, which were expressed in the Bahamas by President Alberto Fujimori.

At the conclusion of the debate, there was a call for an intermission. This time was used by Peruvian Senators Alberto Borea and Javier Diez Canseco to address the assembly.

Borea said that the dialogue called by the government was a farce. He said that he was saying this with the certainty one has when one represents 98 percent of the political parties that formerly composed the dissolved congress.

Borea, president of the dissolved congress, urged the delegates who heard him to vote against sending any kind of assistance to Peru and to send observers to oversee the election process.

When the session was reinitiated, the plenum unanimously voted in favor of backing the OAS mission of Gros Espiell [Uruguayan foreign minister and head of the ad hoc meeting on Peru] and to grant the OAS secretary general full authority to send aid and observers to Peru.

This decision was applauded by Peruvian President of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente, who was present during the debates. He said that this OAS decision represented OAS backing to the Peruvian Government's decision to return to institutionality.

[Begin De la Puente recording] Now what the Office of the OAS Secretary General has to do is to evaluate the economic feasibility of its decision, to prepare a budget, to send observers, to receive international cooperation from countries that have stated their will to contribute to Peru's electoral process, and to see that observers do not limit themselves to be present for the elections only, but that they participate, from the very beginning, in providing technical assistance and cooperation at all levels—the districts, the provinces, and the departments—where the elections process will be taking place before the date set by the government for this very important event for democracy in our country.

This program requires, of course, an adequate budget, logistics, and technical training. This is a big effort that the OAS is assigning to the Office of the Secretary General as a result of the evolution of the democratic process in our country, and as Resolution No. 1 of the Washington ad hoc meeting and Resolution No. 2 of the Nassau ad hoc meeting of foreign ministers have established. [end recording]

Fujimori Calls Results 'Positive'

PA3008010492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2346 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has described the results of the recent session of the OAS Permanent Council as positive for the country. He commented that at the international level there is already an understanding of how Peru is handling the electoral process. He announced that the government has not received any information regarding the date on which OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell will visit Peru.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] At an international level, there is already an understanding of how Peru is handling this entire electoral process. I believe the OAS and countries that have played a leading role in this event support the process we are implementing. The process, of course, will not be stopped.

[Unidentified reporter] It was said there was already an established date for the upcoming visit by the OAS mission headed by Hector Gros Espiell and Baena Soares.

[Fujimori] I am not aware of that, but Peru's doors are open to any observer from any international organization.

[Reporter] Have you planned a meeting with the OAS secretary?

[Fujimori] I have no plans, but he can come whenever he wants.

[Reporter] Mr. President, (?Dr. Gordillo) said there is no consensus in the country regarding the establishment of a constituent congress. What do you say to this?

[Fujimori] I believe there have been enough delays and all the sectors are undergoing preparations. We cannot get involved in this type of [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Has the OAS suspended its [word indistinct] to establish this system?

[Fujimori] No. It is quite the contrary. It would seem as if that information has been twisted.

[Reporter] Mr. President, will Peru be present at the Nonaligned Countries meeting? What proposals will it make?

[Fujimori] It will present proposals at some level and it will promote development and peace.

[Reporter] Any special proposal?

[Fujimori] It will be presented at the Jakarta meeting. [end recording]

Those were President Fujimori's remarks during a visit to the Carmelite monastery in Barrios Altos, Lima. The president then visited Villa El Salvador District in the southern part of Lima, where he visited a number of settlements. He offered solutions such as power, potable water, and the construction of two schools for problems which the poor experience.

CCD Issues To Be Subject to Referendum

PA3108024892 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0128 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] There is no longer any excuse for the political parties to refrain from participating in the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] elections, says President Fujimori.

[Begin Fujimori recording] There is no excuse for any political party to refrain from participating. The CCD must not be a new edition of the old congress. It must be a tool of renewal and change, in which technique and wisdom have priority over political interests. [end recording]

President Fujimori confirmed that all the measures issued by the CCD will be subjected to a referendum.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The CCD will truly have full autonomy but there is one thing—a congress or any institution cannot be autonomous when it comes to being subject to the country and the people. All government institutions operate as a function of the people, and congress and the main measures this CCD may issue will be subjected to a referendum. That is a civic right. [end recording]

The president disclosed that he will participate indirectly in the CCD elections by summoning and supporting independents in the country.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] As president of the Republic and as one who, of course, is very interested in

the political process, I will participate. Of course I will not be on the list. My participation entails the adoption of very clear positions. I have been following this process from the very beginning and I will not retreat.

[Unidentified reporter] (?Will you support) Cambio 90?

[Fujimori] What I hope to do is summon all the citizenry, not necessarily the members of Cambio 90. When I formed Cambio 90 my intention was to create a nucleus which, in turn, would summon all the active forces in the country. This is what my government has been doing.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] There are several candidates. The list will be very strong, which will create competition for all the other groups.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] Very soon, very soon. [end recording]

U.S. Sending 'Minimum' Resources to Fight Drugs

PY2808232092 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Aug 92 p A12

[Text] According to the Antidrug Agreement signed recently with Peru, the U. S. Government has sent only a minimum amount of money earmarked for food expenditures and fuel for the airplanes that operate in the Upper Huallaga in antinarcotics operations.

U.S. sources consulted by our newspaper did not specify the amount, but it was said that it was a "small parcel" of the $11 million earmarked for the 1992 period.

Top FAP [Peruvian Air Force] commanders recently inquired about the amount that should be sent in accordance with the cooperation agreement, but they have not received any concrete or categorical answer.

Meanwhile, on orders from the Peruvian Government, the FAP has since the second half of April 1992 been engaged in controlling the airstrips and airplanes flying in the coca plantation zones.

They are doing this with their own resources and in spite of a number of limitations. The interception of "narco" planes is done by patrolling with Tucano T-27 or A-37 planes, which demand a large amount of fuel and hours of flight.

Until April the FAP had the support of the radars located in Andoas and Iquitos, but the Americans decided to dismantle such equipment, and now the interception of "narco" planes becomes much more complicated and demands greater resources and efforts.

FAP sources have reported that Air Force planes have intercepted 46 planes with foreign registration numbers since last April, when the government issued the decree-law by which the FAP is charged with the direct control of airports and airstrips in the coca zones.

Twenty percent of the intercepted planes were involved in drug trafficking, and most of them were Colombians.

It is appropriate to note that the FAP has so far taken control of nine airports and airstrips in the coca zone, and mobilizes hundreds of troops despite the limitations of its infrastructure.

Another point to stress is the fact that due to the results of such controls, airtaxi companies have dropped their tariffs, because a number of commissions are no longer charged.

A flight from Santa Lucia to Tocache, for instance, used be $50. Now the passenger pays only $25, that is, 50 percent less.

U.S. Has Contributed 'Papers But No Action'

PA2908141992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Contrary to what had been expected, the powerful spike herbicide with which the U.S. Air Force is fumigating coca plantations has not contributed to the struggle against drug trafficking. The substance has killed coca and other plants, and does not permit any kind of plant growth.

The town of Crisnejas is located 28 km south of Uchisa. Crisnejas is divided by the Chuntayacu River, which is an invaluable source of power that could bring the Huayana Valley out of the dark.

Crisnejas residents were the first in the valley to rebel against Shining Path oppression. This took place three months ago. With the Army's arrival, the peasants have reinitiated efforts to carry out projects that will permit their region's development. [passage omitted]

This government initiated a stronger struggle against drug trafficking and was able to establish awareness that coca peasants should be seen as peasants and not as drug traffickers. The government committed itself to initiating a program to substitute coca crops in the area with other crops.

So far, one year after the signing of the narcotics agreement with the United States, none of the promises established in that agreement are being fulfilled.

[Begin unidentified peasant recording] The U.S. Government has seriously failed to give us the support we need to replace coca plantations. So far we peasants have signed agreements and nothing else. There are papers but no action. [end recording]

Farmers Cultivating Poppies, Making Coca Paste

PY2808233592 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 19 Aug 92 p 22

[Excerpt] Diego Garcia Sayan, managing director of the Andean Lawyers Commission, yesterday disclosed that

Peruvian coca growers are engaged in poppy cultivation and raw cocaine paste production.

He estimated that approximately two-thirds of coca growers, precisely those "who have been forgiven on umpteen occasions," are currently processing raw cocaine paste, while others are moving to poppy cultivation, the essential input for heroin production.

Garcia Sayan stated that on top of that, prompted by the serious crisis confronting Peruvian agriculture, more and more farmers living in the Amazon forest are cultivating coca.

"Coca plantations in the Upper Huallaga have expanded to the Lower and Middle Huallaga, and even to the Ucayali River valleys," he said.

The well-known lawyer went on to add that "farmers who used to cultivate corn and rice have switched to coca."

He explained that coca growers have embarked upon this culture diversification and raw cocaine paste production because of the decline in coca prices on the world market.

Garcia Sayan noted that the net profits or yield of a hectare cultivated with coca stand at approximately $400-500, which represents a decrease in earnings.

"That is the very reason why—although it may seem not to make sense—farmers are extending the area devoted to those cultures," he added. [passage omitted]

Military Court Prosecution of 'Terrorists' Eyed

PY2908001892 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
14 Aug 92 p A12

[Text] Daniel Espichan Tumay, the special prosecutor for terrorist crimes, yesterday said that beginning 13 August military courts will hear cases linked with terrorism (planting of car bombs, illegal possession of explosives, criminal involvement). He added that they will also consist of anonymous or "faceless" prosecutors who will use secret codes to discharge their duties.

Espichan Tumay said that Decree Law 26659, that will take force as of 13 August, is an effective measure because it will expedite the prosecution of terrorists. Through this law, subversives are regarded as traitors to the fatherland and placed under the jurisdiction of a military court. He stated that military prosecutors are qualified to investigate and prosecute terrorists who make attempts against people and the national interest.

Commenting on Decree Laws 25475 and 26659, which provide for a pre-trial inquest and severe penalties, including life imprisonment, for terrorist leaders and those involved in direct terrorist attacks, Espichan Tumay said: "In compliance with the existing laws, prosecutions involving terrorism at both military and regular courts will not last more than 65 days."

Espichan Tumay stated that there are approximately 2,200 persons charged with terrorism nationwide, of which more than 50 percent are being held in Lima and will be indicted by the "faceless" prosecutors. He said: "The first audiences by the anonymous courts are definitely scheduled to begin next week at the Miguel Castro Castro Prison based in Canto Grande."

Decree Law 26659, published in the official gazette on 13 August, states: From now on, terrorists charged with planting car bombs which cause casualties and material damage; subversive leaders; people illegally carrying explosive devices; and those who join hit squads or are somewhow involved in terrorist attacks will be placed at the disposal of a military court.

Espichan Tumay said that those involved in these cases will be initially investigated by the national police specialized departments personnel, and then placed under the police or military lower court. He explained that "in Lima, for example, there are 10 police courts and three specialized courts in each branch (Army, Air Force, and Navy). The Armed Forces Joint Command has established courts in zones of the interior of the country."

Espichan Tumay said that following the pre-trial inquest (court investigation), the defendants will be tried by the military courts, which will hand over the sentence within 15 days. He added that "two courts are assigned to the National Police in Lima, and one to each branch that makes up the Joint Command. If the number of prosecutions exceeds the existing capacity, ad hoc military courts for terrorism-related crimes could be created."

Espichan Tumay finally said that the Military Court Supreme Council will act as the final jurisdiction, as in the case of the Supreme Court. He said: "Prosecutors and courts' assistants involved in military prosecutions will be granted full guarantees, and the locations where the courts will be installed will be kept secret."

Military Attache Replacement 'Disciplinary'

PY2808124892 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
19 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] Washington, 18 Aug—Sources of the Peruvian Embassy today reported that the termination of the functions of Army General Jorge Rabanal Portilla as Peruvian military attache was not merely a change of post, it was also a disciplinary measure that included a strong reprimand from the Army to the general.

It has been leaked that Gen. Rabanal Portilla, who was involved in the events in the prisons during the time of Alan Garcia's government, may have contacted an Israeli arms manufacturer in this city. This action prompted Army reaction, because Rabanal Portilla was not in charge of that type of negotiations, because he had no authorization to do it, and because it was not known why he did it.

Reaffirming institutional discipline and respect for regulations, the Army has strongly reprimanded Rabanal Portilla and reassigned him.

On 10 August, the Army Command ordered Rabanal Portilla out of the important post of Peruvian military attache in the United States, and ordered him to assume the post of Army delegate at the Inter-American Defense Board.

According to political and military sources, the Inter-American Defense Board "is a slum," as one Latin American diplomat who is very close to the Peruvian Embassy put it. "Rabanal Portilla has been demoted," he said.

The Army has designated General Luis Salazar Monroe as Peruvian military attache to the United States. Salazar Monroe is a trusted man of General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, currently the Army commander in chief and the president of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

The Army may have designated Salazar Monroe to this important post not just because he is trusted man, but also because he has considerable experience in subversion and drug trafficking, two issues that are now vital for U.S.-Peruvian relations.

It is believed that Salazar Monroe may have received precise instruction from President Fujimori regarding the Antidrug Agreement and the alleged U.S. noncompliance with it.

It is significant that the post of military attache will not discontinue Salazar Monroe's military career. Quite to the contrary. As the diplomatic source put it: "There are many people who became Army commanders in chief after being military attaches."

It should be recalled that while Rabanal Portilla will be retiring this year (he graduated in 1958), Salazar did not graduate until 1961.

To assume his post in Washington, Salazar Monroe left the powerful 2d Military Region headquartered in Lima, a post that is currently held by General Victor Pizarro Castaneda.

With these changes, which a military source regarded as professional rather than political, the Army has reaffirmed its institutional position, and has indicated that discipline and the chain of command must be respected within the Armed Forces, wherever a soldier may be.

It has been leaked that the replacements were ordered by the Army commander in chief, without any political intervention and without even the participation of President Fujimori.

Former Deputy Rey To Head Renewal Movement

PA3108032192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Former Deputy Rafael Rey on 28 August officially presented his Renewal Movement [Movimiento Renovacion] for participation in the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] elections.

Rey said he plans to get 150,000 signatures, 50,000 more than the legal minimum required to register the movement.

Rafael Rey, deputy of the dissolved congress, announced the official nomination of the Renewal Movement's independent ballot for the CCD elections. Rey will be the leader of the movement.

Rey stated that the Renewal Movement was born as a consequence of support from a part of the population to the position he defends, which caused him to be separated from the Liberty Movement.

The young politician read a declaration of commitment to the fatherland, which somewhat reflects the ideology of the new group.

During a news conference, Rey said they plan to get 150,000 signatures to register the movement before the National Election Board and that the movement's symbol will be a ship's helm.

The Renewal Movement will be open to all ideologies, without ruling out the possibility of receiving apolitical persons.

[Begin Rey recording] I can assure you that our ballot is aimed at bringing people of all social conditions to politics, as long as they have the will and capacity to serve and are honest. [end recording]

Minister Visits Hospitals on Indefinite Strike

PA2908043892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The health sector indefinite national strike began on 27 August. Early this morning Health Minister Victor Paredes visited emergency rooms and wards at various hospitals. State attorneys from the Crime Prevention Department also visited hospitals to assess the situation.

We see Minister Paredes talking with the emergency room personnel at Beraguen Chico Hospital. The minister is visiting hospitals to determine if services at the capital's hospitals are normal.

[Begin recording] [Paredes] We are making this visit in coordination with the National Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Torres is accompanying us as a representative of the Crime Prevention Department of the National Prosecutor's Office. We have seen that the emergency section, which is our main concern because it is the place low-income groups utilize, is providing services normally. Let us hope this will continue. [end recording]

Throughout the morning, the attorneys from the Crime Prevention Department visited hospitals that are supporting the strike to ensure that emergency teams have been assigned to them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What hospitals have you visited?

[Unidentified official] Most of the hospitals in Lima. This was our objective.

[Reporter] How many hospitals have you visited?

[Unidentified official] We have been divided into several groups. We are trying to help the patients. [end recording]

Meanwhile, at supervised wards that have been closed on orders from high-ranking officials to keep the media away, medical students were providing medical services. The same was true in emergency rooms.

Venezuela

President Talks About Nation, Integration

PA2908141192 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by "Contrastes" talk show hostess Mary Morgan at Miraflores Palace in Caracas; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Good evening, dear listeners. We are at Miraflores, Caracas, the office of the Venezuelan president. We have come here to talk with Dr. Carlos Andres Perez, president of this nation. Mr. President, while you define the foiled 4 February coup as a threat against democracy, certain groups justify it because of your country's worsening social problems. What is the president's opinion eight months after that event?

[Perez] There is no justification whatsoever for the rupture of constitutional order. This cannot be accepted. Second, it is not true. We have many problems, but during the three years of this administration we have seen the progressive solution of those problems, even though we still face an acute situation. Salaries paid to Venezuelans suffered a dramatic drop throughout the last decade. But there is no justification whatsoever for the coup—not even the difficult social situation we face—because there are democratic solutions. The use of violence cannot be justified.

[Morgan] How can our democracies be strengthened if the threat of a coup will apparently prevail all the time?

[Perez] That is not true. The militarist process is definitely over in Latin America, above all because our societies have changed. Despite all the problems we have experienced, Latin America has managed to modify its processes, culturally speaking. Dictatorships were the result of the type of society that prevailed in the region. That is why now there are no dictatorships, for the first time in Latin America's history. We see attempts to install them again—for example, in Haiti and Peru—but societies now repudiate this.

[Morgan] You are determined to complete your term. What will happen in Venezuela if you do not?

[Perez] No, it is not a matter of my being determined. The national Constitution granted me a five-year term and I will complete it. Furthermore, the term is essential to complete this change in the country's economic structures. Results have been satisfactory so far. This fact is recognized, and statistics and indicators prove it. If this were not the case it would be a disaster for Venezuela. Fortunately, it is the case.

[Morgan] Do you consider yourself, in the best definition of the term, a political animal?

[Perez] I have undoubtedly dedicated my life to politics and I have done it wholeheartedly. The posts I held prove I have been what you might call a winner in politics because I have never been a man who takes superficial positions. I have managed to establish an idea, a form of action, and the Venezuelan people understood it—and they have supported me.

[Morgan] Has this given you what we call happiness?

[Perez] Of course. This is my life and I have to feel satisfied with what I am doing, despite the problems I inevitably have to face.

[Morgan] We do not always have a second chance to improve our actions. To what extent have current problems foiled the possibility of your second term being better than the first?

[Perez] One is never satisfied and things never turn out the way we want. I think I have certainly had a second chance. It is my political experience and perseverance that have allowed me to play a leading role in the most difficult process ever carried out in Venezuela to consolidate democracy.

[Morgan] You are continental leader of democracy. Do you believe this system allows the solutions demanded by Latin American societies?

[Perez] There is no other one. Through this system we can satisfactorily fulfill our people's hopes and I believe we are doing it. Despite the contradictions, omissions, and errors in our history, Latin America is now embarked on the final process for its development and full incorporation to the Western world. I am an optimist, but not for the sake of being an optimist or because I stubbornly want to see things differently. I am an optimist because I realize the processes currently under way in our countries are unavoidable because they will lead to the achievement of goals and the solution of past mistakes.

[Morgan] What kind of impact will the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] between the United States, Mexico, and Canada have on Latin America?

[Perez] Let us talk about something else first because it is one of the reasons for my optimism. Latin American integration is under way. It is no longer rhetoric or the goal of politicians and idealists. A free trade zone and customs unity exist between Venezuela and Colombia. The Mercosur [Common Market of the South] has begun to achieve success. The Group of Three—Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico—will enter the first phase of a free trade zone agreement later this year. The NAFTA between the United States, Mexico, and Canada is part of hemispheric integration because the integration process in the hemisphere is no longer an elusive idea being discussed by certain leaders or statesmen. Either the hemisphere unites or the EC and the alliance between Japan and Southeast Asia will create an extremely difficult situation for our nations' progress. We are no longer an unwelcome neighbor of the United States. We are no longer the U.S. backyard, either. We are now an overall part of its strategy to face the challenges from the great world economic blocs. The Bush Enterprise for the Americas Initiative is no longer a kind offer from a U.S. President. It is a requirement of the U.S. strategy, which coincides with Latin America's strategy.

[Morgan] Does this mean the political integration Simon Bolivar dreamed of will be achieved through blocs?

[Perez] It will be possible through economic integration, which we are achieving. The liberator's ideal is no longer a utopia; it is becoming a reality that Latin Americans need.

[Morgan] As an active participant on the continent in recent decades, what other important achievements do you foresee before the end of the century?

[Perez] First, the definite consolidation of democracy. The foiled coup in Venezuela; the military coup in Haiti; and the military coup in Peru—more perverse and sophisticated because it was fronted by the person who initially received the people's votes for his appointment as president—are the last desperate acts of an old Latin America, where militarism has lost all possibility of seizing power.

[Morgan] Do you believe the OAS will respond to our nations' expectations?

[Perez] Yes, but it all depends on us. That is why I have essentially strived, during the second phase of my government, for the consolidation of democratic process in Latin America—with the OAS as the coordinating factor of the community's decisions. We have made progress in Chile. This allowed us to carry out actions concerning Haiti that will eventually lead to President Jean- Bertrand Aristide's return to power. Although the OAS was weak in Peru's case, it will eventually coordinate efforts so the Peruvian Government is compelled to hold authentic elections that will lead to the recovery of democracy. I think the OAS is about to become what we think it should be. It is also possible that we will reform the OAS. Canada's joining has been invigorating for the OAS.

[Morgan] Venezuela is one of the few countries that has a minister of culture. What importance do you attribute to this?

[Perez] Well, we have had a problem reorganizing our ministries, meaning the state's central organization. Within this reorganization, culture will have a special rank—just like science and technology. I think Venezuelan state reforms will create important parameters that other Latin American countries will have to study. [passage omitted]

Perez Says Everyone Supports Austerity Measures

PA2908202292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has said the austerity measures announced recently have been accepted by all Venezuelans. He recognized, however, that one cannot expect total consensus. The president made these statements during his tour of Zulia State.

[Begin Perez recording] We cannot expect to have full consensus on this or any other issue. Interests have been affected; there is also the political struggle. The day the opposition parties say that they agree with everything the government does, they will no longer be the opposition. But I am confident that the attitude of the COPEI [Social Christian Party], which you have just mentioned, will be very positive in Congress. I am sure they are aware of every measure that will be taken. Of course, they are free to either support or oppose some of those measures.

I repeat that I am confident COPEI will take a constructive stance in Congress and that the measures presented will be approved by Congress. [end recording]

In his visit to Santa Barbara, Zulia State, the president presented an initial investment of 60 million bolivars to the (Marumaconcha) Port project in Colon Municipality. This port will allow Venezuelan and other Andean countries' products to be exported to international markets.

[Begin Perez recording] This facility will permit us to export to foreign markets products produced in the region and the neighboring Andean region, even in Colombia. We will be able to get our products out through this port, construction of which will begin on 28 August. We hope to open this port in eight months in order to service Venezuela and the economy of the Maracaibo Lake area. [end recording]

TV Program Suspended for Airing Chavez Interview

PA3008025592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2106 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 Aug (EFE)—It was reported on 29 August that the Venezuelan television program "Jose

Vicente Hoy" has been suspended, according to its host, journalist Jose Vicente Rangel, because he interviewed Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, who headed the 4 February coup attempt.

According to Rangel, a former candidate for president for the Movement for Socialism of the center left, and whose program is broadcast every Sunday through the Televen network, the program was suspended on an unconfirmed order from the Defense Ministry.

Rangel interviewed Chavez at the Yare prison, where he is being held with other participants involved in the coup attempt. Chavez is being tried by a military tribunal.

Fernando Martinez, minister for communications and transport, has confirmed that he saw the video of the interview. Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez said he has "not yet" seen it.

Rangel added that President Carlos Andres Perez told the Televen Board of Directors that a military judge forbade broadcasting the interview.

Although nothing has been said officially, several military, political, and civilian officials, who met with Perez on 28 August, confirmed that the matter was discussed at the meeting.

The sources said the meeting also debated the Turpial case in which one judge issued an arrest warrant for six high-ranking Armed Forces officers on charges of alleged embezzlement and fraud in supplying communications equipment for the Armed Forces. Eight million dollars was paid, but the equipment was never installed.

Perez said: "We must point out that an arrest warrant does not necessarily carry a sentence. I am confident the Armed Forces will emerge unscathed from all this."

According to the law, "the judge did not have the authority to issue the arrest warrants," Perez said.

Chavez Warns of 'Generalized Unrest'

PA3108030892 Paris AFP in Spanish 1838 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Caracas, 30 Aug (AFP)—Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, leader of the Venezuelan officers who staged an abortive coup on 4 February, warned in statements released by the press on 30 August of what he termed a "generalized unrest that is brewing and spreading in civilian society and within the Armed Forces."

Chavez granted an interview from his prison, 90 kms southwest of Caracas, to Jose Vicente Rangel, a reporter and former presidential candidate. President Carlos Andres Perez forbid the airing of the interview on Rangel's television program on Sunday, 30 August.

A military judge ruled that Chavez is on active duty and thus cannot make statements because the Armed Forces is not a deliberative body. Rangel, who gave copies of the interview to the press, said this ban sets a precedent that is a threat to freedom of expression.

In his statements, Chavez said: "Nothing and no one will be able to end this (unrest), until the required changes are made in the present situation."

"If the ruling class continues to hold fast to its privileges, refuses to understand the evolution of the Venezuelan political process, and stubbornly resists the necessary changes, Venezuelan society will inevitably resort again to its right to rebel as outlined in Article 250 of our Constitution," Chavez said.

Evoking conflicts that occurred in Venezuela in the past century, Chavez said that if the brewing storm produces a situation that degenerates into a large-scale conflict on the order of the federal war, it will not be by choice of the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement (MBR, which consists of the young Army officers who headed the uprising in February).

"This is a very good occasion to explain: We are not promoting a violent solution. We have been keeping abreast of daily events, and any violent solution would be the product of political leaders' stubbornness and the deceitful style in which they have been pursuing their own interests without regard for the national outcry," Chavez said.

The officer said the MBR does not know if this violence will be similar to that of 27 February (1989, when bloody uprisings and looting occurred in Caracas), or to that of last 4 February, when the military uprising took place. "This will involve a joining of the civilian and popular [as received] sectors to stage a civilian-military insurrection," Chavez added.

Chavez denied that his warning is a prologue to a new coup. He said the alert has already been sounded by personalities such as former President Rafael Caldera, writer Arturo Uslar Pietri, and Foreign Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich, himself, who as defense minister at the time was responsible for crushing the February rebellion.

"This is not just a platitude; it is recognition of the existence of conditioning factors that indicate the emergence of a social phenomenon," Chavez insisted.

Chavez denied that the MBR was planning a military dictatorship when it rose up against President Perez. He said the officers acted "because there was no other path or option for ending the regime's system of domination."

He said: "We could not destroy that system of domination, but we did put a crack in it." He said the officers have a Simon Bolivar Plan "that begins by defining a new type of society for the future, over the long term."

Chavez acknowledged that there were "several flaws" which thwarted the 4 February insurrection. He said "the determining one was an early disclosure of the plan around noon on 3 February, which prevented some

communications and electronic units from occupying strategic points so we were unable to implement an effective communications system."

Chavez, who is imprisoned along with 10 other leaders of the rebellion and another 116 common prisoners in the civilian prison at Yare in deplorable conditions, was described by Rangel as a "man of culture and education, with great artistic sensitivity."

At the end of the interview, at Rangel's insistence, Chavez dared to make a recommendation to President Perez: "that he stop and think carefully, and then bravely take the action demanded by the Venezuelan people (an allusion to requests that Perez resign)."

"Let him realize that the only way to go down in history is to contribute the appropriate degree of sacrifice and selflessness that the national situation demands," the rebel commander added.

Perez on Petroven Budget Cuts, Plans

PA2908042592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez stated that the budget cuts at Venezuelan Petroleum [Petroven] will not affect efficiency levels or operations of the national petroleum industry. He made these statements during a ceremony marking Petroven's 17th anniversary.

The Venezuelan head of state made it clear that the 25 billion bolivar budget cut represents only 10 percent of the petroleum industry's overall budget. The reduction, therefore, will not affect the efficiency levels or the operations of the industry's headquarters.

[Begin Perez recording] Venezuela has followed only one policy since it opened its overseas operations: To use this operation as a way to secure foreign markets. Now, if that means that the companies must remain totally Venezuelan, we will never reach that goal. We must join our national efforts with the efforts of the country where we have established a company with Venezuelan interests. [end recording]

He also took advantage of the opportunity to point out that the oil companies Venezuela has abroad respond to that policy of assuring foreign markets, which is why they work as joint enterprises. This does not mean, however, that Petroven can sell any enterprise it wishes. President Perez said that such a decision is reserved for the Petroven Board of Directors and not the government. He concluded by stating that we should feel proud, particularly because international funds have continued to flow into Venezuela even after implementing the economic adjustment program.

Guyana

Hoyte Launches PNC Party Reelection Bid

FL3108010092 Bridgetown CANA in English 2116 GMT 30 Aug 92

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 30, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte has launched his party's re-election bid, saying he wants to inflict a crushing defeat on his political foes. Hoyte on Saturday announced the long-delayed general election would take place October 5.

"On that day, we will separate the men from the boys, for the People's National Congress (PNC) will move on to a glorious victory," Hoyte told a rally attended by thousands of supporters.

"We have a task.... That is to win handsomely at the forthcoming elections, for we are now in an elections mode," he said. He told the rally "the adrenaline has started to flow in me and I feel the thrill of victory coursing through my veins."

The PNC's campaign, he said, will gather momentum and intensity and will not stop until election day when the party would have "inflicted a crushing and decisive defeat" on its political opponents.

The last general election was held here in December 1985. A flawed voters list and a programme of electoral reform forced the government to delay the poll which had been expected in December 1990.

"We have to wage a relentless campaign....., a campaign where no quarter will be asked and none given....., a campaign which will gather strength and which will take us inexorably to that final victory which we all will be working for," the Guyanese president told supporters.

Hoyte said the election would be fought on the achievements of his seven years as president. He said those years had seen major social and economic changes in Guyana.

"Business activity was at a standstill, the economy was stagnant, and life for everybody was difficult," Hoyte said, recalling the start of his term as president. He said the government's economic recovery programme had been a success, with economic growth being recorded in 1991 and the first half of 1992. Shortages of commodities, food lines, and a foreign exchange scarcity have all disappeared and a climate conducive for local and foreign investment created, Hoyte said.

He warned Guyana could face economic and social regression, communal strife, and anarchy if his main political rival, Marxist leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan wins the poll. He asked: "Do you want progress, peace, security, or.... economic stagnation (and) disorder in this country?"

Hoyte, a 63-year old British trained lawyer, said Guyana could "slide back" about five decades if Jagan, leader of

the People's Progressive Party (PPP), obtains the "levers of power." The president told the rally: "We have turned this economy around in a way which has surprised everybody and I do not mind confessing that I, myself, was surprised at the extraordinary success of the economic recovery programme."

General Election Set 5 Oct

FL3008192792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1351 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 30, CANA—Guyana will hold its long-delayed general election October 5. President Desmond Hoyte revealed the date before a crowd of 10,000 supporters who attended a rally here following a special one-day convention of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

Guyanese last went to the polls December 9, 1985, when Hoyte's People's National Congress (PNC) won 42 of the 53 parliamentary seats at stake. Dr. Cheddi Jagan's People's Progressive Party took eight seats, the United Force two, and the Working People's Alliance one.

The PNC government overran its five-year mandate, twice postponing elections because of a heavily flawed voters list and an electoral reform programme. Only this month, the Elections Commission announced it had completed work on a new list with a high degree of accuracy and backing from the major political parties. Three weeks later, opposition parties were complaining that the government was delaying the poll.

The PNC has been in power since 1964. Its main opponents are Dr. Jagan's party and the Working People's Alliance. The election campaign could focus on government's handling of the economy. The government has been reporting major improvements in a country which has gold, diamond, and bauxite. But the opposition contends the government is needlessly selling off Guyana's assets.

Hoyte, leading the PNC in the second election since he took over as party chief and president from the late Forbes Burnham in August 1985, has been spearheading a major divestment programme. More than 13 state companies have been sold since the government launched the operation three years ago. For the first seven months of this year alone, the government collected nearly U.S. 8 million dollars through the programme, officials reported.

Hoyte, a lawyer, is 63 years old, and Dr. Jagan, a dental surgeon, 74. About 384,000 persons are eligible to vote in the coming election. Guyana has a mixed population of 751,000.

Hoyte told the rally on election day "we will separate the men from the boys for the People's National Congress will move on to a glorious victory."